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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Standoff

China has accused a U.S. Navy mapping ship of conducting illegal activity inside China's exclusive economic zone.

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Broiled Alive

"Death by hyperthermia" is the official designation. The reality is even more horrifying—and heart-breaking.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Man who assaulted mute woman during sex gets 30 days. **PAGE 2**
Camacho agrees to 'partnership' with Juan Pan. **PAGE 3**

Feds: No US visa, no entry for alien workers into NMI

- Also, no group waiver for green card fees
- US Citizenship and Immigration Center opens



By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

A ranking official of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services confirmed yesterday that foreign workers who exit the CNMI before the start of the transition to federal immigration would need a U.S. visa to be able to return for work purposes, and that no "green card" will be granted to foreign workers by virtue of their long stay in the CNMI.

Michael Aytes, acting deputy director of USCIS, said that as of this time, the start of the tran-

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services acting deputy director Michael Aytes, left, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, cut the ceremonial ribbon for the grand opening of the USCIS Center on Saipan yesterday. Inset shows Aytes and USCIS district director David Gulick.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Facts and fiction about federalization

BY **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
and **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTERS



Saipan Tribune asked Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, the regional media manager for the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Michael Aytes, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service-

es acting deputy director, to separate fact from fiction relating to the federalization of CNMI immigration:

Question: Many nonresident workers are hoping for an "organic" type of federalization this June, similar to what happened in Guam. Is this possible?

Sebrechts: When you talk about organic type of federalization of immigration and whether it's going to be like Guam, it's not. What happened here at the time of the Covenant when people got U.S. citizenship was the type of organic change. This time it's different. It's not the same thing at all as

what happened in Guam. We already did that "organic" in the CNMI in 1986 when we allowed people who were born here to become U.S. citizens. We already did that and it's ongoing and hasn't changed.

Q: Foreign parents of U.S. citizen kids are convinced that they would be allowed to stay on island even if they don't have jobs.

Sebrechts: There are no specific provisions in the Immigration and Nationality Act and in the CNRA that grant alien parents of U.S. citizen children permission to remain in the United States solely because they have U.S. citizen children. Remem-

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Manta Ray Band wins 2 golds in Tumon music fest

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band has so far bagged two gold medals in the weeklong Tumon Bay Music Festival ongoing in Guam.

The good news was relayed yesterday to Lois DeWitt by her husband Will, who is the band's conductor and music director.

The Manta Ray Band entered three official bets to the festival: solo, rock and jazz, and concert band.

Will DeWitt said the Manta Ray Band competed in the solo and rock and jazz categories Monday night and managed to win gold medals in both. The Saipan Southern High students bested performers from other regions and majority of schools in Guam.

Winning teams are invited to take part in a special dem-

See MANTA on Page 4

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Local

Election reform bill, other measures pass Senate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate yesterday passed a bill amending the CNMI Election Law to allow, among other things, the counting of absentee ballots on the day of the election to promote fair, honest and transparent polls.

Senate Bill 16-22, which

passed on an 8-0 vote, was introduced by Sen. Paul A. Manglona, who was the only senator absent during yesterday afternoon's session.

Absentee ballots in the possession of the Election Commission on the day of the polling should be counted on Election Day to "remove a great deal of uncertainty regarding the out-

come of elections and allow for a speedy transition of powers between outgoing and incoming officeholders," the bill said.

It also aims to establish a clear policy governing elections in the CNMI and set procedures that would allow the Commonwealth Election Commission to more effectively and efficiently administer absentee voting and

other matters.

Currently, the election law of the CNMI requires voters to proffer an excuse to vote by absentee ballot. "This requirement is outdated and an unnecessary barrier to the exercise of the franchise," the bill said.

Other bills passed

The Senate also passed, on a 7-1

vote, S.B. 16-15, which establishes a Prudent Investor Act in the Commonwealth.

S.B. 16-49, which adjusts the salaries of Tinian and Rota resident directors, also passed the Senate on an 8-0 vote.

Senators also approved on an 8-0 vote House Bill 16-194, which adds the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to the list of educational institutions qualified for education tax credit.

The Senate also adopted Senate Resolution 16-31, recognizing the courageous work of the U.S. Seabees who served on Saipan and Tinian during World War II.

S.R. 16-31, introduced by Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, also requests the U.S. Department of the Interior to build a monument in their honor in the American Memorial Park on Saipan.

Man who assaulted mute woman during sex gets 30 days in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a 30-day prison term on a man who assaulted a mute woman while having consensual sex with her.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Jesus C. Ngeskebei to one year in prison, all suspended except for 30 days, for the crime of assault and battery.

"Although there was consensual sex in this matter, the physical abuse and the nature thereof of the victim during such act was far outside the consent," Wiseman said.

The judge ordered the 52-year-old Ngeskebei to start serving the prison term at the Department of Corrections on March 30, 2009 at 8am.

After serving the sentence, the defendant will be placed on supervised probation.

Wiseman required the defendant to pay a \$300 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

He ordered Ngeskebei to report to the Community Guidance Center for counseling evaluation and to write a letter of apology to the victim.

Wiseman noted that Ngeskebei has had only one criminal case more than 25 years ago and that

the court does not consider him a dangerous threat to society.

"However, the court is concerned with the assault found to have been made by defendant on the victim who is a mute person and the victim's impact statement made by the victim's brother that alleges a situation that has the potential to become a more dangerous one for the victim," the judge said.

Wiseman noted Ngeskebei's acceptance of responsibility for his actions during an apologetic statement to the court and considered that as a factor of mitigation.

At the sentencing, the Adult Probation Office recommended a prison term of 60 days. Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Warfield, on behalf of the government, recommended a one-year term.

Defense attorney Joaquin

DLG. Torres requested for probation sentence.

The AGO charged Ngeskebei with assault and battery for hitting the victim in the face on July 27, 2007.

During a bench trial in November 2008, Wiseman found

the victim's testimony credible and declared the defendant guilty of assault and battery.

Wiseman said the victim's testimony was credible despite inconsistencies due to translation problems. The victim testified using sign language. An

interpreter assisted the victim during the trial.

Wiseman said that based on the evidence, there initially was consensual sex between Ngeskebei and the victim.

The victim, however, struggled, but the defendant grabbed her and bit her. Wiseman said the victim was upset and crying.

Grey: Nothing to get excited about USCIS opening

Opening the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Application Support Center in Garapan does not mean that everything is ready for the implementation of the federalization law, according to CNMI Immigration director Melvin Grey.

Grey told Saipan Tribune the USCIS people may be excited about the opening of the Application Support Center but what it can only do right now is the green card applications for immediate rela-

tives, which has been in existence.

"It is just putting an office here. So that's not any indication that things are up and running," Grey said.

A grand opening ceremony was held yesterday for the USCIS Application Support Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

The Center will reportedly allow, among other things, people in the CNMI to provide fingerprints and other biometrics for their green card applications

without having to go to Guam.

Grey earlier stated that the federal people have been telling them that the implementation of federalization will be by June 1, but no hint has been given whether to delay it.

The director said indications are that there will be extension because Homeland Security has nothing on the ground yet.

"They have done nothing at the airport," he pointed out. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

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Camacho jumps ship, agrees to partnership with Juan Pan



Rep. Joseph James Camacho and independent gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero raise their hands after announcing their bid to run in the November election at the former Tan Marikita Café in Garapan yesterday morning.

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Republican Rep. Joseph James Camacho jumped ship yesterday and accepted the "partnership" offer of independent gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero to be his running mate in November's election.

In a morning ceremony at the former Tan Marikita Café in Garapan, Guerrero introduced his running mate to supporters and family members, citing his appreciation for Camacho's decision.

Guerrero said the challenges facing the CNMI community are complex and solving them will require hard work, sacrifice, courage and experience.

With Camacho's qualifications and experience, Guer-

ro is confident that their ticket would bring the "changes" they desire for the Commonwealth and its people.

He said Camacho is a hard-working public servant, has a master's degree in public administration, and is an attorney.

"As a younger man, he served as a police officer for three years, an instructor at Northern Marianas College for four years and what impressed me even more, he delivered pizza and was a dishwasher as he worked his way through college," Guerrero said.

He said he closely watch Camacho during the 2007 campaign and was impressed at his organization, dedication, and sense of joy, hope and promise for the CNMI's future.

"I am honored that Joe has cho-

sen to join me in this campaign and I look forward to working with him and his supporters in the coming months," Guerrero said.

He said the tandem's headquarters will be at the first floor of the JTGA Building in Garapan at the corner of Beach Road and Orchid Street.

Camacho, in his message to the crowd, admitted weighing a

See CAMACHO on Page 7

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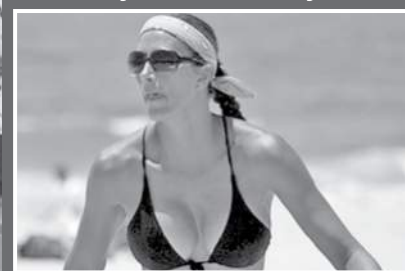


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From left, Paul Baxter, U.S. defending champ; Jen Snyder, pro champ; Phil Dalhausser, 2008 Olympic gold medalist; and U.S. AVP champion Jeff Carlucci. All are professional players in the U.S.



2008 Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser, right, and Todd Rogers, left, with Pres. George W. Bush.



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FEDS

From Page 3

sition period is still scheduled for June 1, 2009.

But he said Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is “personally looking at the facts and circumstances” about the CNMI government’s request to delay federalization by six months.

There is also no requirement at this time for all foreign workers in the CNMI to register with the USCIS office located at the TSL Plaza in Garapan once the transition period begins.

Aytes, who is on Saipan to lead yesterday’s grand opening of the USCIS’ Application Support Center, said the waiving of fees for green card applications will be decided on an individual basis, and not based on any group or class of people, including those who are immediate relatives of Freely Associated States citizens in the CNMI.

“Where we can, we try to be as flexible and understanding as we can,” Aytes said during the center’s grand opening ceremonies.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement NMI, said a green card application costs more than \$3,000, and most immediate relatives of U.S. and FAS citizens eligible to apply for a green card cannot meet the minimum income requirement set by DHS.

In addition to providing the traditional service of fingerprinting and biometric services, the center also offers information appointments for general immigration inquiries using InfoPass, a multi-lingual Web-based system that is free on www.uscis.gov.

“It’s our privilege to be here to be able to serve you in this critical period,” said Aytes, referring to the CNMI’s transition to a federal immigration system.

Besides Aytes, other ranking USCIS officials also flew in for the event, including

Western region director Carolyn Muzyka, Guam field office director Walter L. Haith, and Marie Therese Sebrechts, regional media manager.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who was among the dignitaries at the ceremony, said he is still hopeful that the beginning of the transition period will be delayed by 180 days.

‘Almost’ single point of service

But while people from the CNMI will no longer have to travel to Guam for fingerprinting, biometrics or federal immigration information, they still need to make a trip to Guam for the final green card application.

David G. Gulick, district director of USCIS, said at the moment, they are asking for legal opinion whether or not the center on Saipan can do the final green card application interview here.

“If we can, we will. If we can’t, then they still have to go

to Guam. That’s a legal decision and we asked for guidance. ... We are hoping we can do that here,” he said.

Aytes told the guests at the ceremony that the center is poised to be able to provide a single point of service on Saipan.

The center, which had a soft opening on March 2, has the ability to provide biometrics and fingerprinting services to as many as 20 individuals a day, in addition to at least 20 clients who come in for general information services.

Gulick said clients of the center on Saipan need not wait for long hours to be provided service if they have an appointment.

USCIS is the largest immigration service in the world. It issues permanent resident cards or green cards, conducts national security backgrounds, captures sets of fingerprints for immigration applications, processes applications for immigrant benefits, grants asylum to

foreigners, and naturalizes individuals serving in the U.S. military, among other functions.

No US visa, no entry into CNMI

This is the first time that a key USCIS official has confirmed CNMI Immigration director Melvin Grey’s earlier announcement that foreign workers who exit the islands before the transition period cannot re-enter the Commonwealth using the local work/entry permits.

“A person needs a visa to come to the CNMI after the transition date, even if they have status here. Even if we give them a status, after the transition date and they travel, they are going to need the appropriate visa to come back,” he said.

The CNMI at the moment is the only U.S. territory that does not require a U.S. visa.

Aytes said the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will inform airlines about the kinds of documentation they should ex-

pect before they board someone to come back to the CNMI after the transition period.

He said “temporary workers will not get permanent residence simply because they worked here for a period of years.”

Those long-term workers with U.S. citizen children and who ask to be given a status to be able to remain here will be looked at on a case-by-case basis, he added.

Aytes was also the guest speaker at yesterday’s Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency, where he talked about the importance of opening the new USCIS center on the island and answered questions about federalization.

Ronnie Doca, board chairman of the United Workers Movement NMI, said foreign workers are still hoping that they will be granted a better immigration status once the transition period begins, although he said it’s always good to hear directly from federal officials.

FACTS

From Page 3

ber that minors cannot petition for their parents. For those non-U.S. citizen parents who are here because they are working, we have a transitional worker program for them. But there is one thing to remember: If someone is in a position where they can apply for status, they should do it, if they are eligible.

Q: Would foreign parents with U.S. citizen children be given humanitarian considerations and granted a status to remain here?

Aytes: We’ll be looking at that on a case-by-case basis. We can’t grant them permanent residence. U.S. Immigration law doesn’t provide for that but we’ll be looking at the age of their children, their circumstances, and [determine] the right answer for each person.

Q: How will federalization affect foreign students? There is a prevalent belief among foreign students that they will also benefit from federalization. Is this correct?

Sebrechts: No. All CNMI immigration categories will be recognized during the transition period for the validity of their current status. Eventually, as with all categories, students will fall under the INA and will apply for student visas to study in the United States. The first step will be for schools to get certified to enroll foreign students. This program is administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. For cultur-

al exchange students, we will have a visa for cultural exchange trips.

Q: Immediate relatives, IRs, believe that they will be granted a better immigration status come June 1, considering that they are either married or related to a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident, or a resident of Freely Associated States. Is this correct?

Sebrechts: No. This covers too many different situations. If someone is already eligible for U.S. immigration status due to marriage with a U.S. citizen, they can already begin the application process so that they have their status once the federalization of immigration begins. That will be the same option available to them once the transition period begins.

There seems to be misconception that people think that whenever transition begins, everybody will lose their status and that’s not true. People will maintain the status that they have as they transition into a U.S. citizen status.

Q: A group of people has been asking for the waiver of green card fees for immediate relatives of U.S. and Freely Associated States citizens. Will you grant their request?

Aytes: We are a fee-based agency. ... There are certain types of applications where we will allow the fee waived. The customer can come in, based on their circumstances, and ask that we waive the fee. We will know the facts and decide whether or not to waive the fee. As an agency, we probably don’t collect the fees or waive the fees for about 20 per-

cent of our [services]. Where we can, we try to be as flexible and understanding as we can. Decision will be made on a case-by-case basis, not based on a certain class or group of people.

Q: Do you have separate status for IRs?

Sebrechts: No. We won’t have IRs as a separate status. Immediate relatives in the United States are petitioned only by immigrants.

Q: Will those foreign workers who leave the CNMI before June 1 be allowed to come in using their CNMI entry/work permit?

Aytes: U.S. law is a little different from the CNMI process. A person needs a visa to come to the CNMI after the transition date, even if they have a status here. Even if we give them status, after the transition date and they travel, they are going to need the appropriate visa to come back.

Q: Many people think they will be trapped here because of that. But should they feel trapped here?

Aytes: No. They won’t be trapped here. There are processes for them to file application for us to be able to give them permission to go back and forth. Getting a visa abroad is not an unusual process. It’s the same process we use in the mainland.

Q: Would you allow foreign workers who exit the CNMI before the transition period for emergency reasons to come back using a CNMI entry

permit, because applying and granted US visa takes weeks?

Aytes: We’ll look at emergencies. But the best thing folks can do is pay attention and plan so that if they’re going to have to travel or think they may need to travel, their employer, for example, can start the petition process. ... I would think employers should have a fair sense of their workers, which folks they are going to help through this process.

Q: How about the case of IRs who have a medical emergency? Can they leave and come back after their treatment?

Sebrechts: They could come to us and discuss the situation and we can maybe parole them. We will have categories that we can do temporarily for emergency cases.

Q: What are the chances of federalization being delayed by 180 more days, as requested by the local government and some businesses?

Sebrechts: USCIS is operating with the current plan for a June 1, 2009 initiation of the transition period. The Secretary of DHS is considering the option of a delay and we expect a final decision within the coming weeks.

Q: Would long-term foreign workers in the CNMI be granted “green cards” once the transition to federal immigration system begins?

Aytes: No, that’s not true. We’re applying U.S. immigration law. We can’t craft new programs to give benefits to folks here under the old CNMI law. We will help

them transition but they are not going to be able to get [permanent residence]... Temporary workers will not get permanent residence simply because they worked here for a period of years.

Sebrechts: There is no automatic path [to green cards or U.S. citizenship]. Individuals with current valid CNMI worker status may be eligible for transitional worker status or regular worker categories under the INA.

Q: Workers who have lost their jobs have either gone underground or are pursuing other means to stay on the island at least until June 1 in the belief that federalization may provide them an avenue to continue staying in the CNMI or provide them a better immigration status. Is this correct?

Sebrechts: This is too general to answer. Individuals who have CNMI worker status will have an opportunity for “transitional worker” status. Individuals who are uncertain are invited to make an appointment with the USCIS Application Support Center to ask about their status.

However, there’s no blanket thing that would make everybody eligible. Going underground is not a smart thing to do because as time goes on, people will start verifying workers under the U.S. immigration law and it would be harder to get a job.

Q: Most foreign workers, and even residents believe that the CNMI will not survive the sudden out-migration

of workers that could result from federalization (due to the phase-out requirement of the law). They believe the federal government will not allow that to happen and so holds out hope that, despite prior statements, DHS and Interior will still find a way to accommodate the CNMI’s alien workforce so it could continue having a working economy. Is this correct?

Sebrechts: The transition period has been designed specifically to allow the transition of legal workers and residents from valid CNMI status to U.S. Immigration status. As a result, during up to two years, valid CNMI status will be recognized, allowing employers time to file petitions for change of status to either transitional categories or other employment-based categories under the INA.

Q: Who will apply and pay for the transitional worker’s visa?

Sebrechts: The employers.

Q: How much would it cost employers to petition their workers to have U.S. work visas and would you grant special rate to CNMI employers?

Aytes: I don’t remember the exact fees. Our fees are not as cheap as folks would like them to be, especially employer petitions because of what the employers are asking to be able to hire someone who is not a native of the area instead of an American worker.

FACTS

From Page 3

onstration on the final night of the competition, known as the command performance, where all gold medalists are asked to perform.

A total of five Saipan Southern High students were named

to the command performance: one for the solo and four members of the rock band. The students’ names were not immediately available at press time as they are in Guam for the week-long competition and clinic with musical experts and guests.

The competition started Monday and will last until March 16.

Lois DeWitt, a teacher at Kolblerville Elementary School, told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the 44-member band is keeping a busy schedule during the competition.

One more group, the concert band, is slated to compete on Sunday to defend their title.

Manta Band was adjudged champion in the first annual Tu-

mon Bay Festival last year.

“They are all excited!” Lois DeWitt said, quoting her husband whom she talked with over the phone.

It was disclosed to her that a member of the rock band, the drummer, was slightly injured before the competition but managed to give his best during the performance.

“They are amazing. That’s what he tells me about the kids,” Lois DeWitt said.

She is scheduled to fly to Guam on Thursday to support her husband and the students.

“We’re confident that we will make it again,” she said, on the chances of Manta Band members winning the title again.

The Manta Ray Band, mostly

composed of sophomores and juniors, will perform “more difficult” pieces of music that are expected to wow the crowd from various schools in the Pacific region and Guam.

The band was given the opportunity to perform at the Olympics in Beijing last year.

This year marks the fifth year of the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

227 jurors summoned for Villagomez trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court has summoned 227 prospective jurors from whom a select few will be chosen and empanelled to decide the fate of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and his co-defendants.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered all trial law-

yers in the case to be present for the pretrial conference on March 19 at 9am.

Munson, in his order issued on Friday, said that 150 summons were sent to prospective jurors last March 2 to appear on March 30 at 8am.

All jurors from the other jury pool consisting of 77 jurors were directed to appear on April 1 at 8am for the trial of Villagomez and co-defendants James A.

Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

At a federal jury selection in a criminal case, a judge will select 12 jurors plus one or two alternates from among a prospective jury pool.

After the jury selection, the prosecution and defense lawyers will then hold their opening arguments.

The March 30 trial of Villagomez and co-defendants is expected to fill up the courtroom.

The superseding indictment charged Villagomez and the Santos couple with bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds, conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, and theft concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The indictment alleged that Villagomez accepted a \$15,000 bribe from the Santos couple for approving the pur-

chase of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The couple was also

charged with bribery for allegedly offering the \$15,000 to Villagomez. The three pleaded not guilty.

DPL now required to pay land compensations

After Senate follows House in overriding governor's veto

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate yesterday overrode Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto of a bill authorizing the Department of Public Lands to pay land compensation judgments, about a month after the House of Representatives also overrode the veto on Feb. 13.

House Bill 16-206 is now law with the override of both House and Senate, and the administration, which said the bill is uncon-

Man who sold 'ice' near school gets a year in prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court sentenced yesterday to one year and one day in prison a man who was caught selling methamphetamine or "ice" near a school on Tinian.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson gave Ying Min Jin credit for the time he has already served in jail.

Upon release from prison, Jin, a Chinese national, will be placed on six years of supervised release, Munson said. During the probationary period, Jin will be required to perform 100 hours of community service.

He will then be delivered to immigration officials for deportation.

Munson ordered Jin to pay a \$100 special assessment fee immediately after the sentencing.

Jin was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Jin signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to one count of distribution of a controlled substance.

A Drug Enforcement Administration agent stated in his report that on Aug. 27, 2008, a "confidential source" was able to purchase \$140 worth of "ice" from Jin inside a poker arcade on Tinian.

The officers recovered 2.6 grams of "ice" from Jin's wallet and front pants pocket.

The poker arcade is located within 1,000 feet of the Tinian Grace Christian Academy, according to assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley.

At the sentencing, O'Malley recommended 12 months and one day imprisonment for Jin.

stitutional, has to put a "number" on this new public law.

All the eight senators present at yesterday's session voted "yes" on the override of H.B. 16-206, authored by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and Rep. Stanley Torres.

Sen. Paul Manglona was absent at yesterday's session, originally scheduled for 1pm but started at 2:30pm to wait for senators whose flight from Tinian was delayed.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the Fitial administration continues to stand by its constitutional argument for

disapproving that bill.

"The Constitution does not provide for land compensation payments sourced from public land lease income. The Constitution directs that DPL collect the rents and deduct administrative expenses before forwarding the balance to MPLT for investment. MPLT then prudently invests the funds and remits earnings to the Legislature for general appropriation. This bill contradicts this constitutional process," he said.

In vetoing the bill on Feb. 11, the governor said there is nowhere in Article XI of the CNMI Constitution that mentions land com-

pensation payments as one of the allowable expenses from moneys received from public lands.

But lawmakers said DPL has been sued over land compensation payments, and it's time the agency fulfills its duty to pay for land compensation.

On Jan. 8, for example, the CNMI Superior Court ordered DPL to pay \$1.8 million to the heirs of Rita Rogolifo as compensation for the family's As Mahetog lands that were used by the government for public projects in 1976 and 1992.

H.B.16-206 authorizes DPL to pay for land compensation judgments using its operations fund bank accounts "in cases where land exchange is not a viable or desirable option."

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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for general improvements made to all restrooms at the international terminal buildings and upgrades to the water pump system at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to, restroom door and fixture replacements and replacement of the water pump motor and controls.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009**.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

Telesource renews offer to operate CUC's plants

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman and president of Telesource CNMI Inc., Nidal Z. Zayed, has reiterated the company's offer to help the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in resolving its problems, citing the firm's capability to supply reliable and dependable power to the island of Saipan.

In a letter to Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications members Sen. Paul Manglona and Rep. Victor Hocog, Zayed said it has always been the firm's intention to help CUC in its ongoing challenges but their offers have always been ignored.

In the last three years, he said, Telesource has offered to make \$100 million investment in CUC and waive over \$1 million of accounts receivable in exchange for a negotiated contract on Tinian. Part of the package was the transfer of 10 megawatts of excess power from Tinian to Saipan at the company's own cost. It also offered to conduct a wind power energy study and assist in rehabilitating engines 5 and 7 on Saipan.

He informed the committee that Telesource still stands ready to assist in alleviating Saipan's

power crisis and averting a potential crisis on Tinian.

"Telesource acknowledges financial times are hard and it is probably impossible at this time to attract an equity investor or senior debt to invest in CUC. Had some of our ideas and offers been at least discussed and given serious consideration, Saipan may not be where it is today," Zayed told the two lawmakers.

The company president said the Tinian power plant is a world-class facility that people have come to depend on without worrying or second-guessing its reliability and dependability, compared to Saipan customers. Saipan Tribune learned that the company's investment on Tinian exceeds \$40 million as it financed, designed, built and now operates the Tinian power plant.

Zayed admitted that the company has never made money on Tinian and has accumulated vast financial losses in the tens of millions of dollars; they also forecast increased losses next year and beyond.

"While we are incurring losses over the years, we nonetheless maintained a sense of hope and optimism," he said.

On the issue of privatizing CUC, Zayed believes this is next to impossible, citing the existing

status of the utility plants.

"Today the financial reality in the world is such that finding investors to buy CUC or finance the upgrade of the power structure, including new engines, would be next to impossible. What is possible, however, is that a company like Telesource is willing to assume full operations and maintenance responsibility for the plants including enhancement and upgrade to the systems where necessary," he said.

The company official is inviting lawmakers to visit its power plant on Tinian to see proof of the quality service it is offering to the CNMI.

Zayed said they are willing to compete with larger international firms for this work.

In an interview yesterday, Sen. Paul Manglona said the committee has yet to discuss Telesource's "invitation" to visit its Tinian power plant.

The lawmaker acknowledged Telesource's complaint about its offers being "ignored" in the past. However, Manglona said the commission has yet to make a comment on the correspondence.

Manglona intends to visit the Tinian facility and would give the Telesource official a call when he's ready, along with other members of the committee.



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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS/UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for improvements and upgrades to the drainage system at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of roof repairs and diversion of the roof drainage system at the arrival, departure and corridors.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009**.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for improvements to the Commuter Terminal located at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of roof repairs, renovations to the interior of the terminal and limited renovations to the exterior to the terminal.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
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Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

Northern Island mayor unhappy with military plans

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Island Mayor Valentin I. Taisakan has expressed disappointment with what he said is the U.S. military's lack of adequate information on its plans for the Mariana Islands Range Complex.

In a letter to the MIRC office in Hawaii sent Monday, the mayor cited five major concerns that he hopes the military will seriously consider in drafting its environmental impact statement

for the range complex.

"I want to express my disappointment of the military, or its appropriate department or agency, for not providing or sharing information with this office of any military plans being considered for development in the islands north of Saipan," Taisakan said, adding that the Northern Islands people have the right to know and learn about any military development plan and activities that may have started or being considered to begin

sometime in the near future.

"Such military development plan and activities concern their interest and livelihood," he added.

Taisakan said it is not clear to them whether the additional 10-mile expansion being proposed for the Farallon de Medinilla target range is inclusive of the 3-mile limit that is already in place or an extension from the 3-mile limit.

"This must be clear. While there may be a need by the military for such expansion for their

warfare exercises now or in the immediate future, the total area of such expansion shall not exceed 206 acres or 83 hectares as agreed upon in the Covenant. Otherwise, the military or the U.S. Department of Defense must officially consult with the CNMI government and negotiate for conditions of such expansion," Taisakan said.

With the possibility of furthering military exercises 10 miles beyond the current 3 miles target practice, the mayor said the waters surrounding the Farallon de Medinilla would be affected and would impact the island's fishermen.

"Definitely, such military

exercises will greatly affect the amount of catch by commercial fishermen contributing to our local economy. This is a legitimate concern the U.S. military should take into serious consideration," the mayor said.

While he may have no objection to such training and exercises, Taisakan believes that the use of machinery, equipment, and weaponry that uses chemical or nuclear device is harmful and deadly to the people and the environment.

"If studies find absolute proof that these debris or fallouts did in fact contained such harmful and deadly matters, objects and other things of which they

may have spread in the water, land, or in the air, the military must immediately suspend all of their training and exercises in the interest of protecting the health and lives of the people affected," he said.

The mayor also wants strict implementation of the 30-day notice for scheduled trainings and exercises. He said the current practice of issuing "public notices" by the military is not reliable and unacceptable.

Because training exercises may involve sunken ships of the military, Taisakan worries the toxins that may be produced by these materials and their impact on the environment and people.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CLEANUP BRIGADE

A total of 29 volunteers from ABC Stores, JCT Enterprises (Hafa Adai Store), Hafadai Hotel and Garapan Elementary School students Clark and Panida join Division of Environmental Quality staff and family in removing 1,160 lbs of garbage from Makaka Beach during a cleanup this past weekend.

3 Tinian school teachers get master's degrees

Tinian Elementary School announced yesterday that three of their classroom teachers completed their master's degree in education this year.

Receiving their new diplomas at the Feb. 28, 2009, graduation ceremony on Saipan were Lou

Connie Manglona, first grade teacher; Dionne Santos, first grade teacher; and Jennifer San Nicolas, third grade teacher.

Last year Christina Zucaro was awarded her Ph.D in education.

"Our staff at Tinian Elemen-

tary School is very committed and dedicated to student learning," said acting principal Maria T Rios. "We are fortunate to have members of our staff who are willing to put in the extra hours necessary to enhance their professional careers by pursuing higher education. As a result of the faculty's overall dedication, our student test scores continue to rise. We thank these teachers for their efforts and want them to know we are proud of their accomplishments." (PR)

and projects. There are many problems facing the CNMI today. It is only right and proper to delegate authority and responsibility so Joe's education, training, skills and experience can be fully utilized," Guerrero said.

Guerrero said that working together and sharing the workload will allow the governor and lieutenant governor to quickly cover more ground in order to address the many problems facing the CNMI.

'Campaign focus'

Clyde Norita, campaign manager for Team Juan Pan & Joe Camacho, said it is the tandem's campaign focus to conduct house-to-house visits to get people's support.

Just last weekend, Norita said that Guerrero visited supporters on Tinian where a rally was held on the beach. He also made an initial visit to Rota some weeks ago.

Norita admitted that since before Christmas, Guerrero has been roaming the islands and has been talking to many people about their concerns.

He described the people's feedback on the three islands favorable and good for Guerrero.

Norita said the time of career politicians in the CNMI government is ending.

CAMACHO

From Page 3

number of considerations before accepting Guerrero's offer to be his lieutenant governor.

He said family members were first consulted on the offer and they made the decision to support him based on many considerations.

On being an independent candidate, Camacho said his family believes that political parties are important as it allows individuals to collectively pool their resources for a political goal.

"However, there are some principles that are higher than party affiliation and one of them is electing the right person for the right job," Camacho said, adding that more important than party label is the requirement that the person elected to public office must have the qualification, experience, and character necessary to do the job.

Camacho said that Guerrero has vowed to his family that the Team Juan Pan & Joe Camacho will be a "full partnership."

"There is only one governor. However, the governor has traditionally delegated authority and responsibility to the lieutenant governor on certain issues

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administrator, Jeffrey R. Kaipat

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
MARIA PIERE MALUS,
Deceased.**) **CIVIL
ACTION
NO.
99-769D**

**ARONGRONG SANGI, NGARE
NGALIIR BWE AI IYEEL AIGHUGHUUL
KKEPASAL AISSIS**

Raal: 4/20/2009
Loll Atoll: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Naraja

**ARONGRONG NGALIIR TOALAP ARAMAS
KKA EYOOR YAAR AKAAMWOSCH NGARE
TIPITIP AISSIS SANGI:**
1. SOLTEIO KAIPAT
2. SISTO MALUS KAIPAT
3. JOSEPHA MALUS KAIPAT
4. CONCEPCION KAIPAT RUBEN
5. CALISTRO MALUS KAIPAT
6. MARIA ROFAG SABLAN

Arongrong ngallir aramas taolap, bew Jeffrey R. Kaipat meol Saipan Marianas Is. sangi yaal apeklughugh, ngare ello bwe ii eschay school legheghil matt, iye yaal Maria Piere Malus, eghal tuungor ngali Superior Court of the Northern Marianas bew ewe feruu aighughul teplaal ngare kkepasal I yaay matt. Attomil aighughul matt yeel nge, Robert T. Torres, esq. Bwulasil elollo, Plata Dr. Whispering Palm, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Bx 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

Arongrong iyaay aighughul kapasal ngare titilapal I yaay matt, sangi school legheghil, Jeffrey R. Kaipat, ewe bwe te woc 20th raliil April, 2009 loll atoll 1:30 p.m. me loll inwal awewe iye re makay Rm. 202A Superior Court of the Northern Marianas Is. Ngali alongeong aramas, taolap ikka remengii bwe eyoor yami tipalugh nare aisis, ighal tungoor ngali ghami aubwe totto. Ngare eyoor yami A-yeegh sangi arongrong, yeel au faingii bwulasil Clerk of Court be rebwe alisi ghami, Ghilisao, Olomway.

ATTWILGH LOLL 17th raliil February, 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administrator, Jeffrey R. Kaipat

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
MARIA PIERE MALUS,
Deceased.**) **CIVIL
ACTION
NO.
99-769D**

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION
FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION**

DATE: APRIL 20, 2009
TIME: 1:30 PM
JUDGE: NAJARA

**TO: GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY CREDITORS and
THE HEIRS OF:**
1. SOLTEIO KAIPAT
2. SISTO MALUS KAIPAT
3. JOSEPHA MALUS KAIPAT
4. CONCEPCION KAIPAT RUBEN
5. CALISTRO MALUS KAIPAT
6. MARIA ROFAG SABLAN

A NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AND YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT JEFFREY R. KAIPAT of Saipan, Mariana Islands and in his capacity as the Administrator of the foregoing Estate of MARIA PIERE MALUS, Deceased, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for a Decree of Final Distribution in said estate. The Attorney of Record is Robert Tenorio Torres, Esq., whose address in Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on said Petition for a Decree of Final Distribution by Jeffrey R. Kaipat, as Administrator, has been set for a hearing on 20th of April, 2009 at the hour of 1:30 p.m. Courtroom 202A of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

A copy of said Petition for a Decree of Final Distribution is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court. If you have any objection to said Petition for a Decree of Final Distribution, you are requested to notify the Clerk of Court and the Law Office of Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated. You may also appear at the same time and date set for the hearing on the Petition for a Decree of Final Distribution to present your objection to the above-entitled Honorable Court.

SO ORDERED this 17th day of February, 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Deputy Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Appearing for Petitioner
ABRAHAMA AMIREZ

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF Civil Action
a.k.a. No. 09-0055
SILVERIO M. AMIREZ
and **NOTICE OF**
SILVERIO AMIRES **HEARING**
and
SILVERIO AMIRES,
Deceased.

**TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND
CREDITORS:**

Notice is hereby given that ABRAHAMA AMIREZ, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Silverio M. Amirez, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The Attorney of record is Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq., P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for March 31, 2009, at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 p.m. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN SEAPORT PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-09 REQUEST FOR INTEREST

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting the attendance of all interested parties for certain renovation and replacement works to the seawater fire fighting piping system, to the CPA Seaport Administration Building, Ferry Ticket Booth and the pier area on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held for this project at **3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2009 in Saipan at the CPA Port of Saipan Conference Room** on the second floor. Prospective proposers are required to attend. All questions prior to the pre-proposal conference must be submitted in writing to Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE, CPA's Executive Director, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com. A scope of work will then be designed to form the basis for all proposals.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 9, 2009



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council**

FY 09' 2nd General Membership Meeting
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to I CMC §99.10, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 09 2nd General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the Azucena I, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Preliminaries**
 - Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - Review and Adoption of 10/15/08 Minutes
- II. Reports**
 - OVR Director's Report
 - SILC Chairperson Report
- III. Old Business**
 - Follow up on SPIL Amendments
 - Follow up on vacancy Appointments
- IV. New Business**
 - SILC Empowerment & Advocacy Activities
 - Joint State Plan Forums for Saipan, Tinian, & Rota
- V. Announcements**
- VI. Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY). Please contact MaginGinoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Kaye Christian
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

Brilliant Star adopts int'l math standard



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elementary students from Brilliant Star School visit the airport where they learn to put their advanced math skills to use in relation aviation.

In response to parents' desire to have their children excel in all academic areas, Brilliant Star School, which serves children from ages 1 1/2 years through the sixth grade, has implemented the world's highest math standards as its benchmark for evaluating students.

"In a world that is becoming increasingly dependent on technology, it is clear that students need to develop a solid foundation of math in order to be prepared for their futures. In fact, there is a trend among schools to place increased emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math—known as 'STEM,'" explained Rob Schultz, the principal at Brilliant Star. "It has been recognized in recent years that the strongest math skills are coming from the Singapore school system. As part of our goal to provide a world-class education at Brilliant Star, we look to the highest standards in the world."

Schultz explained that the benchmarking math exams have been obtained from the Singapore Math program, and in the coming weeks, elementary students will

be evaluated as to their level of achievement. The school uses the internationally acclaimed Montessori curriculum and teaching method in which individual educational plans are developed for each child.

"Recent brain research shows that not everyone learns in the same way, and so the teaching method at Brilliant Star capitalizes on the natural learning strengths and needs of each individual child. It also recognizes that kids in a classroom can't all possibly progress at the same rate. So in this way, each child is given the opportunity to master subjects and move forward as quickly as they are able," said Schultz.

He explained that the adoption of standards and regular testing at the school has come about as a result of a series of meetings between the school's board of trustees, teachers, and parents.

"We heard from parents that they want more information regarding the academic achievement of the children. And we have also heard the

desire to ensure that all areas of the child's knowledge bases are well rounded. By using the Singapore Math assessments, we help ensure that math skills will be at their highest levels," said Schultz.

Adoption of uniform standards for education has been on the minds of the nation's governors as they met last week. Currently, educational standards are set by each state, and the United States is one of the few countries in the world that does not have a national standard of education.

"Although the nation's governors voiced their desire to establish a national standard, it will likely take several years to do so. In the meantime, at Brilliant Star School, we will seek the highest international standards in each subject area, and use them as our standards," said Schultz.

"Adopting the Singapore Math assessments for excellence in math allows us to ensure the kids are excelling in this area," he said. "We also recognize that academic achievement is only

one facet of living a successful life, and so at Brilliant Star, we also emphasize skills needed for children to develop their full potential as human beings." This is accomplished by paying close attention to each child's social and character development.

"We work to give children high academic skills, and also the tools they need to solve interpersonal and group problems," said Schultz. "It's been shown over and over that the happiest people are those that can not only serve their communities through their intellectual skills, but who can also work constructively with other people, and who have the skills to solve conflicts," added Schultz. "We focus on these areas in addition to the academics. We're a school that emphasizes both academic excellence and social ease."

Brilliant Star School is accepting students for the Fall 2009. Contact the principal at 323-STAR (7282), or visit the website at www.BrilliantStar.org. Scholarships and financial aid are available, and all are encouraged to apply. (PR)

ON THE NET
www.BrilliantStar.org

Two Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on beaches adjacent to the Palms Hotel Saipan and the Central Repair Shop and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said in a statement issued yesterday that samples col-

lected from these two locations have been found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropi-

cal environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Wednesday. This week, the division took samples from 38 locations on

the Saipan coast.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and <http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm>. Interested individuals and organizations may also receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Rota sets 2-day insurance checkpoints

The Rota Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting mandatory liability insurance checkpoints on March 13-14, 2009.

On Friday, March 13, the first setup will be held along San Francisco Highway Pinatang

by the Commerce Building. It will start at 4:30pm, will last approximately 75 minutes, and will end at 5:45pm.

The second setup will be along San Francisco Highway Sinapalo 3 by the Children's Park. The checkpoint will start at 7pm

and terminate at 8:15pm.

On Saturday, March 14, the first checkpoint will be held along San Francisco Highway Unginao by the Rota Hotel. The checkpoint will start at 9am, last about 75 minutes, and terminate at 10:15am.

The second setup will be along

San Francisco Highway Tatgua. It will start at 5pm, last about 75 minutes and terminate at 6:15pm.

All checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities. For more information, contact Officer Jarrod Manglona at 670-532-9433. (DPS)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 11, 1999

Senate OKs CIP bill

As expected, the Senate yesterday overhauled a legislation appropriating close to \$23 million in capital improvement project funds to increase allocation to Rota and Tinian as well as to fast-track a new prison on the heels of the hostage incident by inmates at the existing facility. Senators voted unanimously on the revised measure following an agreement to alter the plan passed nearly a month ago by the House of Representatives. It heads back to the lower chamber to vote on the amendment. They also agreed to waive local procurement regulations to allow a sole-source contract for the proposed new prison in a bid to hasten construction of the \$10 million project.

6 inmates charged, flown to Guam

Six prisoners who participated in Tuesday's 14-hour hostage drama led by William Sablan were sent to Guam yesterday after they were charged and arraigned for a federal offense. Department of Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms filed the charges before the US District Court. Aside from Sablan, the other prisoners were Vicente Aldan Jr., Jeffrey Celis, Ryan Babauta, Edwin Blas and Arcel Busto. They were among the eight inmates who bolted out from the Division of Corrections last month. Ingram said they will be back on March 18 for the trial. According to Dave Wood and Gregory Baka from the U.S. Attorney's Office, it is considered a federal offense if individuals who were previously convicted of felony are caught in the possession of a firearm.

March 11, 2002

CUC-CDA case now over

The long dispute over more than a hundred million dollars in CIP funds between the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is now over. The two autonomous government agencies have agreed to settle the case, with the suing party—the CDA—filing a legal pleading before the CNMI Superior Court Friday to withdraw its requested hearing for a motion for summary judgment that is supposed to be heard sometime this week. In its pleading, the CDA said the utilities company has also agreed to withdraw the hearing for its motion for summary judgment, which was scheduled on the same hearing date. If the scheduled hearing was to push through, it would have been a pivotal point that may result in the rendering of judgment in favor of one party.

Ex-legislator sued for alleged nonpayment of student loans

Former Saipan lawmaker Engredino M. Jones is being sued by a Hawaii-based university on alleged nonpayment of student loans. The University of Hawaii at Manoa, through counsel S. Joshua Berger, has filed a civil suit against the former Tanapag representative, in a bid to collect over \$13,000 that Jones allegedly owes the educational institution through various student loans. Court documents filed at the Superior Court state that in the period covering 1984 to 1998, the former legislator was recipient to student loans offered by the university.

March 11, 2003

Sonic boom rattles NMI

A sonic boom from two U.S. fighter jets rocked the Northern Marianas late afternoon yesterday, prompting panicked calls to the Emergency Management Office and reportedly breaking glass windows in parts of Saipan. Air Force spokesperson Lt. Kim Melchor confirmed the fighter jets' flyby to the media on Guam, according to KUAM TV's Mindy Fothergill. The boom, which resembled a huge explosion, occurred after the two fighter jets conducted low-approach flights over Saipan as part of the military's aerial training. "They plan to have six more," Fothergill said, quoting the information released by Melchor. The aerial training would be conducted until Friday.

NMI tagged to lead regional airline, healthcare efforts

The Northern Marianas has been chosen to spearhead efforts toward improving the region's air transportation and healthcare services, following the First Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit that was concluded in Palau over the weekend. Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the chief executives of Guam, Palau and Yap gathered for the landmark meeting that dwelt on a broad spectrum of regional issues, according to the summit's official report. Discussions covered tourism, air transportation, healthcare, fuel costs, shipping, solid waste management, renewable energy, telecommunications and education.

Guam Industry Forum III registration opens

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Joint Guam Program Office and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific said yesterday that registration is now open for the Guam Industry Forum III.

This is the third in a series of industry forums related to the design, construction and logistics support requirements for the realignment of Command, Air, Ground and Logistics units of the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam.

Guam Industry Forum III is focused on general contractors, specialty subcontractors, and designers for the Guam realignment. The Forum also focuses on suppliers and service providers from materials to medical care. The Forum will be held on April 28, 29, and 30 at multiple venues.

The first two days will be held at the Sheraton, Hilton, and Marriott hotels. As during the second Guam Industry Forum, attendees will have an opportunity to register for one-on-one sessions with program officials, to be held at the Hyatt

hotel on the third day of the event.

Updates on the process and progress of the Guam buildup effort will be presented by a variety of subject matter experts in the areas of acquisition, infrastructure, workforce housing and logistics, small business opportunities, sustainability, and a host of other relevant subjects. Additionally, planning for information technology solutions will be a featured topic

ON THE NET

www.guamindustryforum.com

during this year's forum.

Invited guest speakers include BJ Penn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment; Gov. Felix P. Camacho; and Guam Delegate Madeline Z. Bordallo.

"The Guam Industry Forum remains an important venue for industry to learn of opportunities to support the Marine Corps relocation," said Maj Gen David

F. Bice (Ret.), executive director of the Joint Guam Program Office. "We look forward to a productive dialogue with the local, U.S. and international business communities about the program's progress and best practices that will make this realignment a success."

Over 1,300 participants attended the previous Guam Industry Forum. Registration for this event is required, and registering early is recommended, as seating is limited and a large audience is expected. For more information and to register, visit www.guamindustryforum.com.

The Joint Guam Program Office facilitates the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. JGPO works within the Department of Defense and closely with the Government of Japan, Government of Guam, U.S. Congress and Federal agencies to lead and manage the delivery of required capabilities to the Marines. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEWLYWEDS

To special couple Ronnie & Fatima Manaloto, beginning March 6th, 2009, your thoughts will be for each other. Your joys and sorrows will be the same. You will share each other's days and nights. May your future always be bright! Congratulations on your wedding! Greetings coming from your family and friends.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MMAC Team Captains' meeting today

The 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is calling a meeting for all team captains for the March Against Cancer event that will take place on May 22-23, 2009.

This meeting for team captains will be at 5:30pm today, March 11, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Giovanni Private Room. The early bird registration fee—a reduction of \$50—will end on March 27.

The MMAC Committee is asking individuals, families, organizations, schools, and businesses to become a part of this year's March Against Cancer by forming a team and participating in this important event. All team captains and other interested individuals are asked to attend the team captain meeting to learn more about the event.

The Marianas March Against Cancer event is the CNMI's largest fundraiser in the fight against cancer. Groups wanting to register their team or anyone needing more information may call 682-0050 or email joanne.ogo@gmail.com or reincamacho@gmail.com. (PR)

Annual Poetry Competition on Thursday

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is inviting the public to the Sixth Annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition to be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on Thursday, March 12, at 6:30pm. Students from junior high and high schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian will be competing for cash prizes and trophies. The Sengebau Poetry Competition is sponsored annually by the NMI Council for the Humanities. For more information, contact Council staff at 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org. (PR)

NMC Alumni meeting

Graduates and former students of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the NMC Alumni Association meeting scheduled for March 12, 2009, at the Hard Rock Café at 6:30pm.

The general meeting is for all NMC alumni (those who have graduated with NMC degrees or those who have earned at least 24 NMC academic credits) and will feature the presentation of the alumni logo, picture taking for alumni membership cards, alumni reunion event selection, alumni survey, and other important topics. There will also be a discussion on the Alumni Survey, which is an important part of the College's accreditation efforts. All alumni are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. (NMC)

Zoning to hold training sessions

The Zoning Office is inviting the public to attend training sessions about the Saipan Zoning Law tomorrow, March 12, at the Multi-Purpose Building, Susupe. Each session will start with a briefing and then answer questions. A reservation is not necessary to attend.

■ 9am: Overview of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 for developers and the general public

■ 1:30pm: Land subdivision for surveyors and others involved in subdividing property

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, permit application forms, and other information are available to download on the Zoning website at www.zoning.gov.mp. Paper copies of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 may also be purchased for \$10 at the Zoning Office (2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Building). (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FRESH GRADUATE

Congratulations Jennifer S. Buniag on obtaining a master's degree from Framingham State College on Feb. 28, 2009. We are so proud of you! Greetings coming from your loving husband, beautiful daughter, and the GES Mallard family!

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA
EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	018E	2/28 Sat	2/26 Thu	2/26 Thu	2/24 Tue	2/21 Sat	3/6 Fri	3/2 Mon	3/1 Sun	2/22 Sun	2/22 Sun	3/2 Mon	3/6 Fri	3/8 Sun	3/10 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	018E	3/14 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue	3/19 Thu	3/21 Sat	3/22 Sun	3/24 Tue	3/27 Fri	3/28 Sat	4/2 Thu	4/21 Tue	4/19 Sun
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MELL SINGAPORE	030E	3/28 Sat	3/29 Sun	3/29 Sun	3/31 Tue	4/2 Thu	4/4 Sat	4/5 Sun	4/7 Tue	4/10 Fri	4/11 Sat	4/16 Thu	5/5 Tue	5/3 Sun
MELL SENOKO	019E	4/4 Sat	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Thu	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/17 Fri	4/18 Sat	4/23 Thu	5/12 Tue	5/10 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	018E	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/16 Thu	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue	4/24 Fri	4/25 Sat	4/30 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/17 Sun
MELL SINGAPORE	031E	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/19 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Thu	4/25 Sat	4/26 Sun	4/28 Tue	5/1 Fri	5/2 Sat	5/7 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/24 Sun

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The road to Tehran

The Obama administration's multi-pronged Iran policy began to come into focus last week with diplomatic overtures to Tehran and efforts to woo its regional allies. Before taking office, Barack Obama spoke of opening a dialogue with Iran. On her first trip to the Middle East as secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton proposed an international conference on Afghanistan that would include Iranian officials and provide an opportunity for face-to-face engagement.

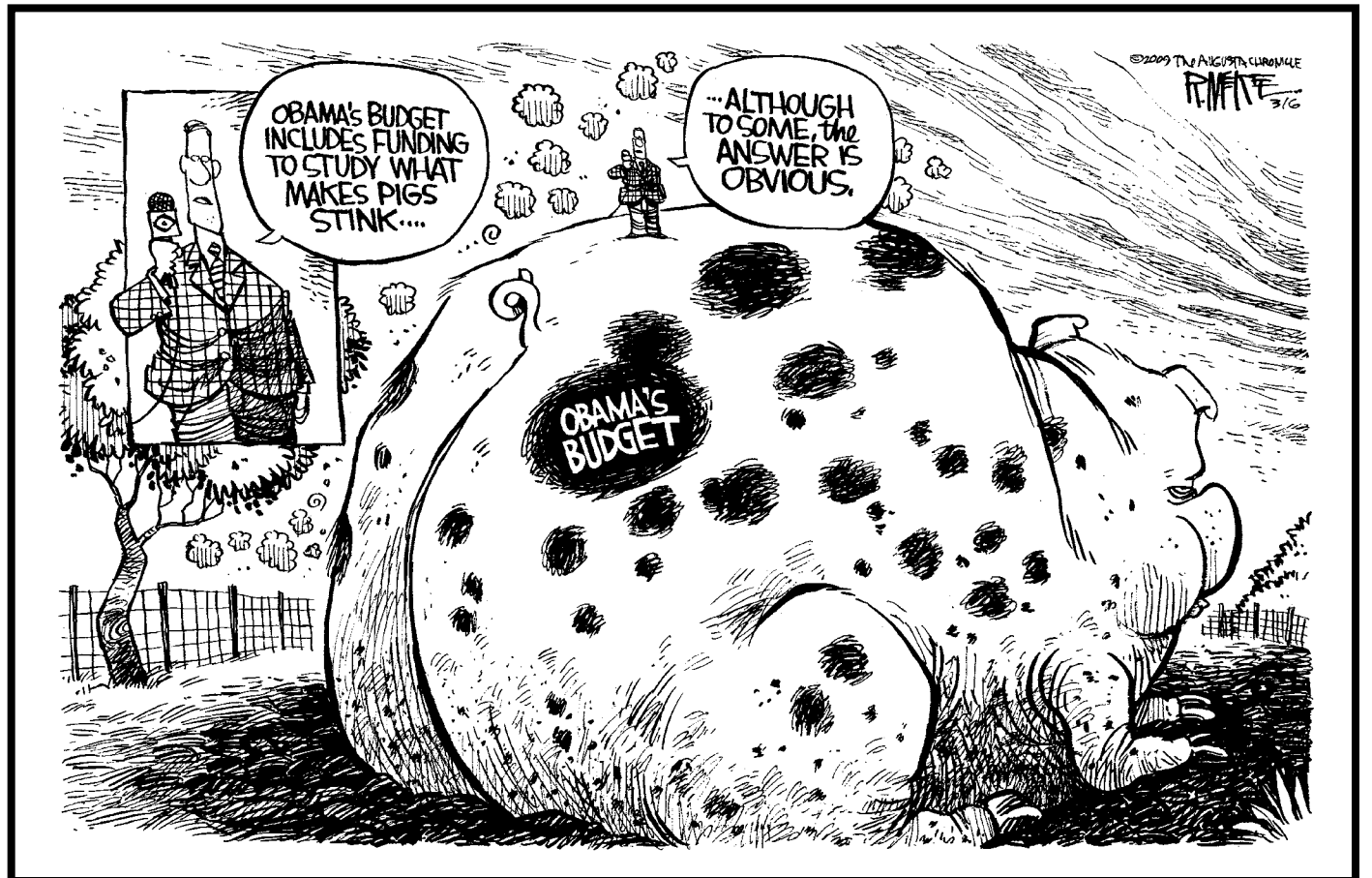
The invitation meets one of Iran's immediate goals, which is for U.S. recognition as a regional power. The U.S. and Shiite Iran have a common enemy in the Sunni Taliban, and the administration hopes Afghanistan might serve as a starting point for cooperation, as it did when Iran helped oust the Taliban after 9/11. Of course, relations between Washington and Tehran quickly deteriorated after President Bush included Iran on his "axis of evil" list. Obama says he's putting an end to the Bush policy of confrontation.

But even as it begins to engage Iran, the administration is trying to weaken the Islamic Republic's grip on the region. Clinton announced that she's sending emissaries to Syria. Damascus wants a peace deal with Israel that would include the return of the Golan Heights, and the United States and Israel want Syria to stop supporting the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia in neighboring Lebanon. Meanwhile, Britain announced that it was considering talks with Hezbollah's political wing in an effort to nudge it away from violence and, apparently, from Iran.

On the main issue with Iran—nuclear arms—the U.S. is turning to Russia. The administration has argued that it will not need to build the European missile shield that Russia vehemently opposes if Russia helps prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. By that the administration means that Russia should change its position on the U.N. Security Council and agree to serious economic sanctions against Tehran if it does not agree to forgo nuclear ambitions.

Iran has yet to respond to the Afghanistan invitation, and Iranian leaders have sent mixed signals. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad welcomed Obama's election, but last week Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, criticized Obama for perpetuating a U.S. policy of "unconditional" support for Israel and for the "massacre" of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza war two months ago. He reiterated his support for "resistance movements" such as Hamas, and Clinton lashed back by accusing Tehran of interfering in Arab countries. Nonetheless, we think the administration is right to pursue dialogue with Tehran. We disagree with the adage that familiarity breeds contempt, and would say instead that communication builds confidence. There's already enough contempt.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Conversation #2: The body is coded to heal

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

[The following is an excerpt from *The Ageless Adept*]

Health from the Pacific islands," he said, as he served the pineapples and grapefruit, pouring a few tablespoons of blackstrap molasses over them.

"Now, you may not be conscious of this," he continued, "but everything that you have come to accept about being alive, and all that you experience in matters of health is actually Nature's healing. In fact, you have never actually experienced health. You have only experienced healing. Every feeling is a healing."

"I'm not sure I follow you on that one," I interrupted.

"Well, your body, because it is coded to heal, is always in a state of regeneration or repair. Sometimes that repair is noticeable, as in the case of a cold or some ache or pain. But, more often than not, the body's healing is operating below the level of your conscious awareness. What you call 'being healthy' is simply the space between the noticeable healings. But the healing never stops. Like a pendulum swing, or the motion of the tides, the rhythm of healing is constant. Your awareness of it is the only thing that changes. "When was the last time you or someone you know had a fever? Did you ever stop and ask why the body develops fevers?"

"Why?" I pondered aloud. "No, I guess I never thought about why. I just lumped it in as just one of the illnesses the body develops."

"And that's exactly my point. The fever isn't the illness, my friend. The fever is the healing."

"Our bodies are constantly healing. That's all we ever do. Every cell in our bodies is replaced every seven years. Our skin is constantly shedding and regenerating. White blood cells are killing germs that enter our bodies. Everything you think of as illness, the sneezing, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, the fevers; every ache and pain is actually the body at work healing itself. The power to heal is something you were born with."

"So why doesn't it seem that people are healing?" I asked. "It seems to me people are getting sicker and sicker, not healing."

"As we said yesterday," the Adept replied, "there is no such thing as something 'staying the same.' A thing is either expanding or contracting. Similarly, the body can either be assimilating, that is, incorporating nutrients into itself—expanding. Or, it can be eliminating waste from itself—contracting. If it is doing one, it is not doing the other."

"Also, according to the Truth of Rhythm, every 'in' must have an 'out.' For every assimilation, there must be a corresponding elimination. The simple reason why many people in this society are ill is because they never give their bodies time to eliminate."

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI
By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



"Have you ever experienced waking in the morning with mucus in your eyes, phlegm in your throat or blockage in your nasal passages?"

"Yes," I answered. "Doesn't everybody?"

"No. Have you ever wondered why this is? It's because for many people, the nighttime sleep period is the only time their bodies get the chance to shift gears from assimilation into elimination mode. They've spent the entire day eating breakfast, eating snacks, eating lunch, eating snacks, eating dinner and eating snacks. For them, sleep is the first break in their daily food intake ritual. It is only then that the body gets the chance to shift modes to excrete the accumulated mucus of their high-starch, processed diet through any opening it can."

"So by the time you wake, you have eyes filled with mucus and phlegm in your throat. All this elimination is the healing. And given the opportunity, the body would heal itself in this way. But, immediately after those few hours of sleep, you wake and start the eating cycle again—shifting the body out of elimination mode and back into assimilation mode. People aren't healing simply because they're not allowing themselves to."

"What's more," the Adept continued, "everything the body does in an effort to heal is often thwarted by modern medicine in the name of healing. But it's really not healing, it's hindrance."

"You're saying that all we have to do to heal is let our bodies rest?" I asked.

"Essentially. There's also the matter of nourishment. But the body, left alone, tends to heal."

That simple concept—that the body is coded to heal—flew in the face of everything I had come to believe. I always believed that pills tend to heal; doctors tend to heal; surgery tends to heal. But the body? I wasn't sure if I was ready for that. Sure, there was the simple healing of cuts and bruises I couldn't deny. But, in general, the body seemed frail and prone to breaking down. And I had always derived a sense of security knowing that there was some scientist somewhere hard at work coming up with some pill or treatment designed to stop the body's inevitable deterioration. Now I was being asked to give that up.

"It seems too simple," I said. "I mean, I can see how the healing code concept could work in a simple Garden of Eden setting, but life these days is too complicated. What if the coding just isn't enough?"

"Good point. The other thing to know," the Adept continued, "is that,

See CONVERSATION on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

CTE: Career and Technical Education

There is a need out there in reader-land for men and women with skills. Skills in the trades. For some reason known only to somebody else, this particular reality has gone all but unnoticed by everybody. Even those who know about the need, like those who would be doing the hiring, aren't making any noise. Why is that?

One reason might be that most people out there assume that college education leading to Law or Medicine or Education or Finance is the only goal worth preparing for. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

College is necessary for only one or both of two reasons: either one wishes to become liberally educated, and this is a good thing, no question; or the career goal of the student requires the sheepskin. News flash: Most jobs do not require formal Liberal Arts degrees.

Plumbers don't need one, carpenters don't need one, electricians don't need one, most building jobs don't need one, driving jobs don't generally require one. Wanna be a long-haul truck driver? Well, you get the idea. Many jobs of the sort I have just listed do require apprenticeships. Oh, and most, at least in the states, pay in the \$30 per hour range.

There is a move in PSS to reemphasize CTE. What is that? That's Career and Technical Education, folks. This is not a new thing but

what it is is something that has been more or less on the back burner until recently. There are several reasons for this.

One, the cost. In order to build the shops and obtain the needed equipment for auto mechanics and machine shop and carpentry and electrical work and you name it big bucks are required. Well, you may have heard, we are in a recession. We have been for the last few years regardless of myths to the contrary.

Another roadblock has been the lack of trained instructors to teach the desired courses. There are all kinds of reasons for this too. Most trades folks want to be out there making the big bucks, so they are hard to find. And teaching a subject is a whole different ball game than being on the job responsible only for oneself.

The need for well-trained and able trades men and women is great, no doubt about it. Our high schools need the funding and the manpower to fill that need. I should mention too that our Junior College, which could also host certificate programs in the trades, could use similar funding support.

Well okay, where might such funding sources be found? Well, for one the federal government. Money for education that directly affects the growing of workforce capacity is being made available, if we are to believe the headlines. Too, certain industries desperate even in these depressed times, are hiring and training directly,

By **STEPHEN B. SMITH**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.



though these are to be found mostly on site in the states per se. Need more examples?

The energy field needs all of the skills I mentioned above and more. Certain other skills such as welding for instance can be tied to other skills as well. Deep sea divers who are also welders can do very well; I have been told up to \$200 hourly. There are just too many opportunities to list to be able to touch on them all in a short column like this. But, opportunities there are.

I am not saying to our young people don't go to college. What I am saying is that if you go make sure you know why you're going. Still, no matter whether one choose the Liberal Arts path or the Career Tech path one is well advised to plan, research, and choose sensibly.

Let's learn what caused this crisis

More than \$9 trillion—in taxpayer dollars—has been pledged, committed, lent or spent by the federal government in response to the economic crisis. Some say that if the economy continues to deteriorate, trillions more might be necessary to prevent another Great Depression.

Yet no one has investigated how this crisis happened. That is irresponsible. A comprehensive investigation is essential to prevent this from happening again.

We know how important such investigations can be. Several years ago, as chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, we conducted an extensive bipartisan investigation when reports of possible wrongdoing surfaced concerning lobbyist Jack Abramoff and his cohorts. We hired investigators, issued subpoenas, took testimony and discovered a web of corruption that led to convictions. Abramoff sits in federal prison today.

That sort of investigation is, unfortunately, rare. While oversight and investigation are key responsibilities of the legislative branch, too often the daily demands on overburdened committees push sustained oversight down the list of priorities.

While much remains to be uncovered, we know that this crisis was triggered in part by unscrupulous behavior in the subprime loan market, the failure of key regulators, widespread greed and the fact that America's largest financial institutions were permitted to regulate themselves.

The urgency and scope of this problem dictate that we must join together, take bold steps to fix what's wrong and ensure that we never face this kind of threat again.

Requiring greater transparency and oversight can be done quickly. In addition, Congress should immediately commence a full investigation—and in a manner that does not promote any political agenda.

The magnitude of a serious investigation and the conflicts likely to arise from fragmented committee jurisdictions suggest that a bipartisan select committee is necessary to uncover what happened, establish accountability and reform our financial system so that it is regulated in a manner that will provide stability and certainty in our markets. The committee must have expert staff and investigators and subpoena power to investigate fully and report back promptly.

By **BYRON DORGAN and JOHN MCCAIN**

Special to The Washington Post

Byron Dorgan is a Democratic senator from North Dakota. John McCain is a Republican senator from Arizona.



The appointment of a select committee has a long and successful tradition in the U.S. Senate, including the Truman committee that investigated fraud, waste and abuse in government contracting during World War II and the Kefauver committee that investigated the national expansion of organized crime.

The recovery and growth of our economy depend on the confidence of the American people. That will be restored only when we have investigated, analyzed and fixed the things that caused today's economic crisis.

Letter to the Editor

Enforce anti-littering law

I am a sophomore at Saipan Southern High School. Last week I participated in the Beautify CNMI monthly cleanup of Garapan and was terribly frustrated with all the garbage I found in almost every corner. After spending 90 minutes under the hot sun, my partner and I filled up about four huge bags with trash. The majority of this trash consisted of beer bottles, paper plates, and cans—all things that could have easily been disposed of properly.

When I went home, I looked up some information about littering. I found that the CNMI has a Commonwealth Litter Control

Act of 1989 (Public Law 6-37) that provides for a \$500 fine for littering and that the Division of Environmental Quality, Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Health, Division of Fish & Wildlife, Coastal Resources Management, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Marianas Visitors Authority all employ litter control officers.

Knowing this information, I wonder how many litter tickets have been issued in the last 12 months?

If our Commonwealth Litter Control Act were enforced, we

would have a cleaner island. A cleaner island would benefit tourism and improve the quality of life for everyone who lives here.

I ask that the government enforce our litter laws so that people like me don't have to spend our weekends picking up other people's garbage. I also realize that the community and businesses are responsible and I ask that they stop littering and put pressure on those who do to stop.

Jacquelyn Johanna B. David

San Antonio, Saipan

CONVERSATION

From Page 10

as products of Nature, our human coding is inextricably linked to the natural environment. Everything that moves us out of balance with the natural order suppresses our coding a bit more. We were designed to function optimally in an environment with specific ingredients in specific combinations. Air, sunlight, plant and animal life, minerals and ecosystems, were designed to support each other and keep our codes activated. And that's how it was for thousands of years.

"But now, as a result of man's influence on the planet, and the consequences of our free will to deviate from the plan, everything from the Earth's magnetic field, oxygen level, ultraviolet rays, air purity, soil composition, to the planet's water have all been shifted into a state of dissonance and disharmony that further suppress nature's codes. As a result, there are certain levels of purity and balance that the Earth is no longer able to create or sustain, and we are all feeling its effects. So anything that you can do to return your body and its environment to the original pristine state—everything from putting plants in your home, using air purifiers, to eating organic food—all serve to reactivate your body's dormant code for healing. And it will be enough."

"You mentioned oxygen level," I interrupted. "You mean even

the air isn't even air anymore?"

"Do you remember learning in school, Seeker, that the atmosphere is 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, and 1 percent inert gases?"

Actually, I didn't. I was never good in science. But I chose not to interrupt.

"Well, those weren't always the percentages," the Adept continued. "Our atmosphere was once closer to 50 percent oxygen. Think what effect that would have on the body, the bloodstream, the plants, and the existence of parasites and toxins in the system. Certain parasites, which could not thrive in oxygen-rich environments, now thrive and multiply."

"That's kind of scary, isn't it? I mean if even the very composition of the air isn't what it should be, how can we ever hope to reactivate the body's code?"

"Fortunately, there are ways, thanks to Nature's foolproof perfection. Adaptation is coded into that perfection. But we'll get to that later."

The preceding was an excerpt from the 7 Conversations of Agelessness, from the book The Ageless Adept: Perfect Health, Long Life and the Fountain of Youth. For more, visit www.agelessadept.com.

■ ■ ■

Visa waiver comments:

Do you have a concern about the pending visa waiver law? Make your voice heard! Please note that public comments must be sub-

mitted by March 17, 2009. You must reference Docket #: *USCBP-2009-0001* in your letters. Send letters to:

Border Security Regulations
Branch, Office of International Trade,
Customs and Border Protection, Mint Annex,
799 9th Street, NW.,
Washington, DC 20001.

Also, submit your comments and concerns online at www.change.gov, www.whitehouse.gov, www.regulations.gov, and www.dhs.gov. The more the better.

■ ■ ■

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■






Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

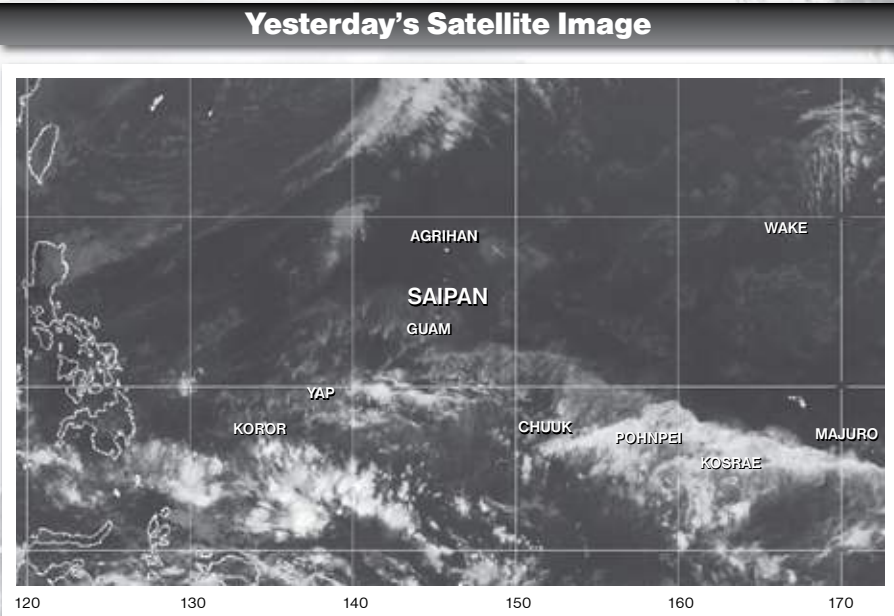
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼75

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲64 ▼59
Beijing	Cloudy	▲54 ▼37
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▼64
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▼67
London	Cloudy	▲55 ▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼48
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲77 ▼64
Miami	Sunny	▲82 ▼67
New York	Rain	▲55 ▼36
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲49 ▼39
Paris	Cloudy	▲50 ▼43
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲56 ▼44
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲60 ▼36
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲49 ▼27
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼45
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲48 ▼30
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲55 ▼45
Washington, DC	Showers	▲65 ▼39

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
1:46 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:03 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:14 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:55 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from near Iwo To Island at 25N141E to 20N132E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 19N. East of 140E cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. West of 140E scattered showers are seen along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary. Low-level convergence ahead of a trade-wind surge is producing scattered showers over Yap between 8N and 11N from 137E to 145E and west of the CNMI within 70 miles of a line from 16N137E to 21N140E. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from south of Mindanao to 2N130E to end at EQ138E. Aided by favorable upper-level dynamics, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis south of Koror between the equator and 6N from 130E to 144E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 4N from 157E to 165E and over Tarawa Atoll south of a line from 2N168E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:28 AM	6:27 PM	Today	6:35 PM	6:11 AM
Thursday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM	Thursday	7:29 PM	6:51 AM
Friday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM	Friday	8:23 PM	7:31 AM
Saturday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM	Saturday	9:16 PM	8:12 AM
Sunday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM	Sunday	10:11 PM	8:55 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

- REQUIREMENTS**
- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
 - The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
 - For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm Daily
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Even in a recession, some companies are hiring

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

Help wanted: pharmacists, engineers and nurses. Believe it or not, even some banks are hiring, at least for their technology teams. While the recession has claimed 4.4 million jobs, the economy has created others, many of them for highly trained and specialized professionals. More than 2 million jobs openings now exist across a range of industries, according to government data.

Job seekers beware, though. An average of nearly five people are competing for each opening. That's up sharply from a ratio of less than 2-to-1 in December 2007, when the recession was just starting and nearly 4 million openings existed.

Human resources executives



In this Feb. 18, 2009, file photo Barry Rosenberg of New York, from center left, John Fromholtz of New Jersey, and Dale Turnage, of Vacaville, Calif., who came to New York for this job fair, stand on line at a National Career Fairs job fair outside the Radisson Martinique On Broadway Hotel as they and hundreds of others wait to enter the building.

say companies that are hiring are benefiting from a top-notch talent pool as applications pour in from a larger base of job seekers. The number of unemployed Americans has soared, to 12.5 million last month, from 7 million when the recession began.

Broadly, jobs are being added in education, health care and the federal government, the Labor Department said, with the government adding 9,000 new jobs last month alone.

But beyond those areas, jobs can be found in a variety of sectors. Some places that are hiring, such as companies that make nuclear power equipment, haven't been hit that hard by the recession. Others, such as discount retailers, are actually benefiting from the downturn as shoppers turn thrifter.

Buffett says nation will face higher unemployment

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett remains confident that America's best days are ahead, but he says the nation likely will face higher unemployment and eventually inflation because of the current economic crisis. Buffett said the nation's leaders need to emphasize a consistent message, and they should support President Barack Obama's efforts to repair the economy

because fear is dominating Americans' behavior.

Buffett said the economy has basically followed the worst-case scenario he envisioned six months ago.

"It's fallen off a cliff," Buffett said Monday during a live appearance on cable network CNBC. "Not only has the economy slowed down a lot, but people have really changed their habits like I haven't seen."

Buffett said the changes are reflected in the results of Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s subsidiaries. He said Berkshire's jewelry companies have suffered, but more people have been willing to switch to Geico to save money on car insurance. The three-hour-long interview aired from another Berkshire subsidiary that has been hampered by the economy, the Nebraska Furniture Mart store in Omaha.

Autos task force sees Chrysler, GM electric cars

WARREN, Mich. (AP)—Four members of President Barack Obama's autos task force spent much of their Monday driving General Motors Corp. electric vehicles and touring a Chrysler LLC pickup truck factory.

The members, led by Wall Street financier Steven Ratner and Steelworkers union official Ron Bloom, traveled first to GM's tech center in the Detroit suburb of Warren, Mich., and then drove to Chrysler's Warren Truck plant.

GM and Chrysler are living on a total of \$17.4 billion in

government loans, and the task force is trying to determine if they will get more money. The companies have requested a total of \$39 billion as they try to survive the worst U.S. auto sales downturn in 27 years.

Task force members first visited the sprawling GM tech center, where they were greeted by Chief Executive Rick Wagoner and test-drove white and silver Chevrolet Volt electric cars, according to shots taken from television news helicopters.

Then it was off to the Chrysler plant in a 2009 silver Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo driven by Bloom, where they met with top Chrysler executives, including CEO Bob Nardelli, Vice Chairmen Jim Press and Tom LaSorda and Chief Financial Officer Ron Kolka.

They entered the plant near an auditorium in which the company had placed several of its future products, including electric and hybrid vehicles. The plant employs about 2,600 workers.

Merck buying Schering-Plough in \$41.1B deal

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Merck & Co. is buying Schering-Plough Corp. for \$41.1 billion in a deal that gives Merck key new businesses, access to a promising pipeline of new products and the chance to further cut costs, including eliminating about 16,000 jobs.

Merck hopes the cash-and-stock deal, which would vault it to the world's No. 2 drug-maker, helps it better compete in a drug industry facing slumping sales, tough generic competition and intense pricing pressures.

The deal announced Monday would unite the maker of asthma drug Singulair with the maker of allergy medicine Nasonex and form the world's second-largest prescription drugmaker. Merck and Schering are already partners in a pair of cholesterol fighters, Vytorin and Zetia, although concerns about safety and effectiveness have hurt sales.

Schering's shares skyrocketed and Merck's fell, typical for a company doing a big acquisition and funding part of it with new

shares. Schering shares jumped \$2.50, or 14.2 percent, to \$20.13, and Merck shares fell \$1.75, or 7.7 percent to \$20.99.

The companies say the deal will boost earnings per share in the first full year after it closes, and they'll be able to save \$3.5 billion a year after 2011.

The news comes six weeks after Pfizer Inc. announced a \$68 billion deal to acquire Wyeth and on the same day as reports that Genentech Inc. is close to striking a \$95-per-share sale to cancer drug partner Roche, after rejecting a deal for months.

Erik Gordon, an analyst and professor at University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, said the Obama administration's health care plans have much to do with the recent spate of mergers and their focus on cost-cutting.

"If anything, the pressures for these kind of mergers ... are stronger now that people are hearing what the new administration is thinking about for health care reform," Gordon said.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

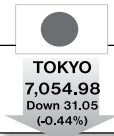


AUSTRALIA
3,143.200
Up 21.500
(0.69%)

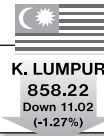


HONG KONG
11,669.35
Up 324.77
(2.86%)

JAKARTA
1,297.568
Up 10.875
(0.85%)



TOKYO
7,054.98
Down 31.05
(-0.44%)



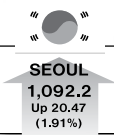
K. LUMPUR
858.22
Down 11.02
(-1.27%)



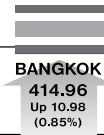
MANILA
1,873.22
Down 17.40
(-0.92%)



SINGAPORE
1,470.98
Up 14.03
(0.96%)



SEOUL
1,092.2
Up 20.47
(1.91%)



BANGKOK
414.96
Up 10.98
(0.85%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
6,547.05
79.89

NASDAQ
1,268.64
0.00

S&P
676.53
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.5620
British Pound	0.7236
Canadian Dollar	1.2917
Chinese Renminbi	6.8403
Euro	0.7869
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7562
Indian Rupee	51.8600
Indonesian Rupiah	11,987.5000
Japanese Yen	98.6880
Malaysian Ringgit	3.6945
New Zealand Dollar	2.0040
Philippine Peso	48.3320
Singapore Dollar	1.5408
South Korean Won	1,516.1000
Swiss Franc	1.1513
Taiwan Dollar	34.5760
Thailand Baht	36.0700

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil hovers near \$47 as OPEC signals supply cuts

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil hovered near \$47 a barrel Tuesday in Asia after OPEC signaled it will likely announce another production cut on Sunday, adding to large supply reductions the cartel has already implemented. Benchmark crude for April delivery fell 11 cents to \$46.96 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil prices gained \$1.55 on Monday to settle at \$47.07. Leaders of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have suggested for weeks that the group may cut output quotas at its next meeting on March 15

in Vienna. On Monday, Kuwaiti Supreme Petroleum Council member Moussa Marafi told the Kuwait News Agency that an OPEC production cut of a million barrels a day would raise prices to over \$50 a barrel by the third quarter of 2009. Marafi said OPEC compliance with the 4.2 million barrels a day of cuts announced since September has been "very high" at 80 percent and would reach 90 percent by the time the group meets Sunday.

McDonald's warns on dollar; comparable sales rise

NEW YORK (AP)—McDonald's Corp., the nation's No. 1

hamburger chain, posted higher comparable sales Monday but warned that the stronger dollar and higher commodity costs may take some of the meat out of its first-quarter sales and profit. Monday's warning wasn't much of a surprise to investors—the company had indicated in January when it reported fourth-quarter results that the dollar would hurt its profit and sales in the first three months of the year. But the Oak Brook, Ill.-based fast-food chain was more specific Monday, saying quarterly sales will likely be off by at least \$600 million and earnings could be hurt by 7 cents to 9 cents per share if foreign-

currency rates stay at current levels. The company said higher commodity costs could also hurt its quarterly results, but did not offer investors an indication about the extent of that hit.

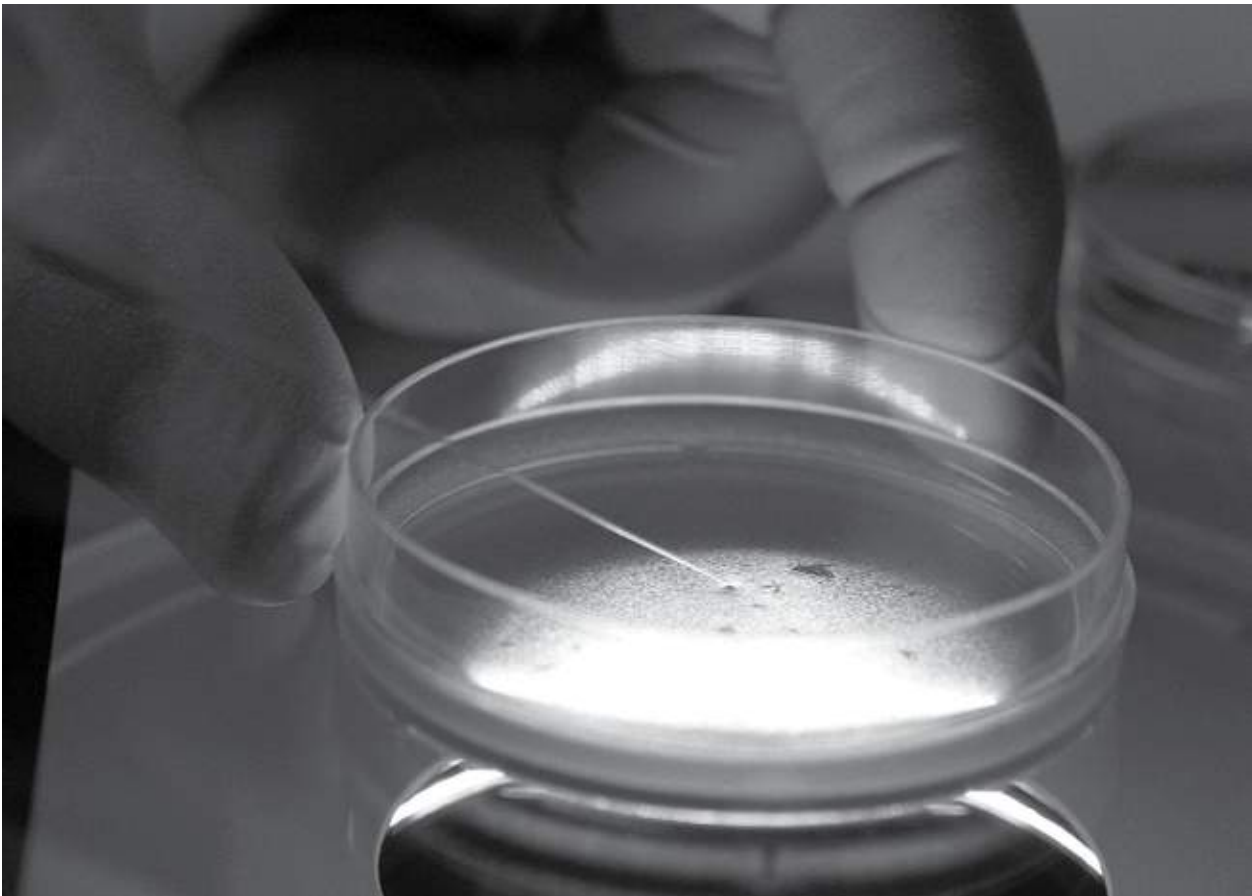
Newspaper publisher McClatchy cutting 1,600 jobs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—McClatchy Co. is shearing another 1,600 jobs in a cost-cutting spree that has clipped nearly one-third of the newspaper publisher's work force in less than a year. The latest reduction in payroll announced Monday follows through on the Sacramento-based com-

pany's previously disclosed plans to lower its expenses by as much as \$110 million over the next year as its revenue evaporates amid a devastating recession. The layoffs will start before April. Several of McClatchy's 30 daily newspapers, including The Sacramento Bee and The Kansas City (Mo.) Star, already have decided how many workers will be shown the door. After the latest purge, McClatchy will have saved at least \$300 million annually, with management now confident it will exceed the \$110 million target set for the latest cuts, although the company didn't specify by how much.

Nation

Obama opens up stem cell work, science inquiries



In this Oct. 22, 2008 file photo, Theresa Gratsch, a Ph.D. research specialist, expands human embryonic stem cells under a microscope at the University of Michigan Center for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich.

WASHINGTON (AP)—From tiny embryonic cells to the large-scale physics of global warming, President Barack Obama urged researchers on Monday to follow science and not ideology as he abolished contentious Bush-era restraints on stem-cell research. “Our government has forced what I believe is a false choice between sound science and moral values,” Obama declared as he signed documents changing U.S. science policy and removing what some re-

searchers have said were shackles on their work.

“It is about ensuring that scientific data is never distorted or concealed to serve a political agenda—and that we make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology,” Obama said.

Researchers said the new president’s message was clear: Science, which once propelled men to the moon, again matters in American life.

Opponents saw it differently: a defeat for morality in the most basic questions

of life and death.

“The action by the president today will, in effect, allow scientists to create their own guidelines without proper moral restraints,” said Family Research Council President Tony Perkins said.

In a crowded ornate East Room, there were more scientists in the White House than Alan Leshner, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science had seen in his 30 years in Washington. “More happy scientists than I’ve seen,” he added.

1 in 50 American children experiences homelessness

NEW YORK (AP)—One of every 50 American children experiences homelessness, according to a new report that says most states have inadequate plans to address the worsening and often-overlooked problem.

The report being released Tuesday by the National Center on Family Homelessness gives Connecticut the best ranking. Texas is at the bottom.

“These kids are the innocent victims, yet it seems somehow or other they get left out,” said the center’s president, Dr. Ellen Bassuk. “Why

are they America’s outcasts?”

The report analyzes data from 2005-2006. It estimates that 1.5 million children experienced homelessness at least once that year, and says the problem is surely worse now because of the foreclosures and job losses of the deepening recession.

“If we could freeze-frame it now, it would be bad enough,” said Democratic Sen. Robert Casey of Pennsylvania, who wrote a foreword to the report. “By end of this year, it will be that much worse.”

Most states lacking in homeless plans

A new report on child homelessness says a majority of states have inadequate plans to address the situation. The report lists the status of programs to address the situation by state.

Policy and planning efforts grade



ACROSS THE NATION

Conn. rep ‘disturbed’ when ape is found in diapers

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Six weeks before a 200-pound chimpanzee nearly mauled a woman to death, state officials were cracking down on the owner of a 14-pound siamang that was still wearing diapers made for infants. Pierce Onthank, the president of an oil and gas company, was charged in January with illegal possession of a primate for keeping a siamang, a type of gibbon that is native to rain forests in Malaysia and Indonesia and can weigh up to 30 pounds and stand 3 feet high. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection says he never had the re-

quired permit. The owner of Travis, the chimpanzee who mauled the woman, also did not have a permit. But Travis was allowed to go unmonitored, while the owner of Koby the siamang gibbon is facing a court hearing and possible fine. “I’m very disturbed,” said state Rep. Diana Urban, D-North Stonington. “It simply points out to me why we need to have definitive legislation on this issue.”

Official: Ill. slaying suspect planned ‘death day’

MARYVILLE, Ill. (AP)—The man charged with gunning down a pastor mid-sermon and then stabbing two

churchgoers had marked the day as “death day” in a planner found in his home and carried enough ammunition to kill 30 people, a prosecutor said Monday. Madison County State’s Attorney William Mudge said he had no details on the reference in alleged gunman Terry J. Sedlacek’s day planner, only that it singled out Sunday as “death day.” “The only thing I can really comment on is he came armed with many rounds of ammunition and a knife, and I think we can surmise that more bloodshed may have occurred,” Mudge said. Sedlacek, 27, of Troy, was charged Monday with first-degree murder and aggravated battery in the attack at First Baptist Church that killed the

The most immediate effect will allow federally funded researchers to use hundreds of new embryonic stem cell lines for promising, but still long-range research in hopes of creating better treatments, possibly even cures, for conditions ranging from diabetes to

paralysis. Until now, those researchers had to limit themselves to just 21 stem cell lines created before August 2001, when President George W. Bush limited funding because of “fundamental questions about the beginnings of life and the ends of science.”

Stem cell decision exposes religious divides

By ERIC GORSKI
AP RELIGION WRITER

The embryonic stem cell research debate is steeped with religious arguments, with some faith traditions convinced the research amounts to killing innocent life, others citing the moral imperative to alleviate suffering, and plenty of religious believers caught somewhere in between.

President Barack Obama’s order Monday opening the door for federal taxpayer dollars to fund expanded embryonic stem cell research again brings those often colliding interests to the fore. Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called Obama’s move “a sad victory of politics over science and ethics.”

“This action is morally wrong because it encourages the destruction of innocent human life, treating vulnerable human beings as mere products to be harvested,” Rigali, the archbishop of Philadelphia, said in a statement.

On the other side is the Rev. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, a United Church of Christ minister and a professor at Chicago Theological Seminary.

“There is an ethical imperative to relieve suffering and promote healing,” she said. “This is good policy for a religiously pluralistic society that cares about human suffering and the relief of human suffering.”

Obama alluded to religion in announcing the changes, saying, “As a person of faith, I believe we are called to care for each other and work to ease human suffering. I believe we have been given the capacity and will to pursue this research and the humanity and conscience to do so responsibly.”

Some religious traditions teach that because life begins at conception, any research that destroys a human embryo, as this research does, is tantamount to murder and is never justified. The Roman Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist Convention are among those that oppose the research.

Officials hold Cabinet-level meeting on Guantanamo

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top officials of the Obama administration met privately Monday to discuss how to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Attorney General Eric Holder hosted the first Cabinet-level meeting of President Barack Obama’s Guantanamo task force. Participating in the meeting, among others, were Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, CIA Director Leon Panetta and FBI Director Robert Mueller.

Obama has pledged to close the facility for terror suspects within a year, and officials must decide which suspects to ship away to foreign countries and which to bring to trial in U.S. courts, or tried and held by the U.S. in some other fashion.

At Monday’s high-level meeting, the group discussed standards for review-

ing detainee cases, which detainee decisions will get priority, and what has been done to date.

According to an official familiar with the process, detainees are being grouped into categories, and government officials from multiple agencies are being grouped into teams assigned to examine particular categories of detainees.

The review teams would then make recommendations to the Guantanamo task force. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the deliberations are private.

If a review team cannot reach a consensus on a particular detainee, the case will go to the Cabinet-level officials to reach a decision, the official said.

Holder, who visited the Navy base last month, has said each case needs to be reviewed separately.

Rev. Fred Winters and left Sedlacek and two congregants who tackled him with stab wounds. Neither Mudge nor Illinois State Police would comment on a possible motive or on Sedlacek’s mental state when he allegedly strode into the church shortly after 8 a.m. Sunday, exchanged words with Winters and began firing a handgun.

Ocuplets’ mom may get new home, childcare help

WHITTIER, Calif. (AP)—Southern California’s octuplets mother may be moving to a new home and getting help to raise her brood. Nadya Suleman’s father Ed Doud is purchasing a \$564,900

house in the city of La Habra in a deal is expected to close Friday, said Prudential Realty listing agent Mike Patel. In a related development, television’s Dr. Phil McGraw said Monday that Suleman will accept a volunteer group’s offer of nursing care for her children. Suleman has been living in a Whittier home that is owned by her mother. But that property is being foreclosed on because her mother is more than \$20,000 behind in mortgage payments. Doud is divorced from her mother. The 2,583-square-foot house in La Habra, about 20 miles east of Los Angeles, has four bedrooms, three baths and a large, fenced-in backyard. The master bedroom features a walk-in closet.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

1 dead, 6 missing after Thai dive boat capsizes

BANGKOK (AP)—Rescuers retrieved a body floating in the sea Tuesday after a boat carrying 30 people capsized off Thailand's southwestern coast, officials said. The search continued for six more people, including five foreigners, reported missing. Authorities and fishermen plucked 23 divers from the sea a few hours after the boat sank early Monday and rushed them to local hospitals, said marine police officer Parinya Kaewplung. The boat was about 12 miles (19 kilometers) off the coastal Phang Nga province when it went down. "We found a female Caucasian body near where the accident occurred," said Parinya. "But the body has not been identified." Parinya said rescuers were searching for six others.

10 killed in suicide bomb near mosque in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Security officials say a suspected rebel suicide blast near a mosque in southern Sri Lanka has killed 10 people and wounded three government ministers. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara says the rebel suicide attacker struck early Tuesday morning during a ceremony celebrating an Islamic holiday near the mosque outside the southern town of Matara. Police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekara says the blast killed 10 people and wounded three ministers. The Tamil Tiger rebels have been blamed for repeated attacks on senior government officials in the past.

Pakistan tribe agrees to hand over Taliban

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—A tribe in a Pakistani region where the military has fought insurgents has agreed to stop sheltering foreign fighters and hand over local Taliban leaders, authorities said. Pakistan has previously signed such pacts with tribes in its northwest regions bordering Afghanistan, and they tend to unravel. But Monday's agreement in the Bajur tribal area came after the army said it had defeated insurgents there after six months of fighting. Bajur is a rumored hiding place of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, and the offensive there has earned praise from American officials who are concerned that militants use Pakistan as a base from which to plan attacks in Afghanistan. The 28-point pact was signed with the Mamund tribe, which controls a large swath of Bajur and whose ranks have yielded most of the top leaders of the local Taliban. Shafirullah Khan, the top Bajur government official, told reporters that the tribe also agreed to ban the display of heavy weapons.

North Korea reopens border to South Korean workers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea agreed Tuesday to allow South Koreans working in a joint industrial zone in North Korea to cross the border after Pyongyang's move to cut the last military hot line to Seoul left hundreds stranded overnight, officials said.

North Korea put its troops on alert and cut the hot line Monday as the American and South Korean militaries began joint maneuvers. The communist regime

warned that even the slightest provocation could trigger war during the 12-day drills.

The North stressed that provocation would include any attempt to interfere with its impending launch of a satellite into orbit. U.S. and Japanese officials fear the launch could be a cover for a test of a long-range attack missile and have suggested they might move to intercept the rocket.

"Shooting our satellite for

peaceful purposes will precisely mean a war," North Korea's military threatened in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency. Any interception attempt will draw "a just, retaliatory strike," it said.

The North has been on a steady retreat from reconciliation since President Lee Myung-bak took office in the South a year ago. After Lee said the North must continue dismantling its nuclear program if it wants aid, Pyong-

yang cut ties, suspended joint projects and stepped up its beligerence rhetoric.

"The danger of a military conflict is further increasing than ever before on the Korean peninsula because of the saber rattling which involves armed forces huge enough to fight a war," the North's news agency warned as Pyongyang put its armed forces on stand-by for combat.

The North condemns the exer-

cises as a rehearsal for invasion and last week threatened danger to South Korean passenger planes flying near its airspace if the maneuvers went ahead.

The exercises are annual drills the two nations have held for years, are "not tied in any way to any political or real world event," Gen. Walter Sharp, the U.S. commander, said in a statement Monday. The U.S. has some 28,500 military personnel in South Korea.

Report: China says activity by US ship illegal

BEIJING (AP)—China has accused a U.S. Navy mapping ship of conducting illegal activity inside China's exclusive economic zone, a Hong Kong television station reported Monday—Beijing's first response to the latest crisis between the two militaries.

The U.S. Defense Department says Chinese ships surrounded and harassed the Navy vessel in international waters Sunday, at one point coming within 25 feet (8 meters) of the American boat and strewing debris in its path.

However, Hong Kong-based Phoenix Satellite Television cited an unidentified diplomat at the Chinese Embassy in Washington as saying that Beijing considered the ship to be in violation of Chinese and international law and had sent ships to interdict it.

"This official emphasized that China cannot accept Washington's groundless accusations (and) the Chinese side demands America cease such illegal surveying activities and engage in more matters conducive to the stable development of China-U.S. relations," Phoenix reported.

It said the Chinese government would make a formal statement on the matter. A regularly scheduled Foreign Ministry briefing was scheduled for



In this photo released by the U.S. Navy, crewmember on a Chinese trawler uses a grapple hook in an apparent attempt to snag the towed acoustic array Sunday, March 8, 2009 of the military Sealift Command ocean surveillance ship USNS *Impeccable* in the South China Sea on Sunday, March 8, 2009.

Tuesday afternoon in Beijing.

Calls to China's Defense Ministry rang unanswered Tuesday, while the Foreign Ministry declined to immediately comment.

The episode took place in international waters in the South China Sea, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) south of Hainan Island.

The USNS *Impeccable*, a surveillance ship, resorted to spraying one Chinese vessel with water from fire hoses to force it away. Despite the impact of the water, Chinese crew members stripped to their underwear and continued closing in, the U.S. Defense Department said.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing

said a protest had been lodged with the Chinese Foreign Ministry as well as with the Chinese Embassy in Washington.

It said the *Impeccable* had been conducting "routine operations in the South China Sea in accordance with customary international law."

"The actions of the Chinese

vessels put both sides at risk and are inconsistent with the obligation for ships at sea to show due regard for the safety of our ships," the statement said, adding Washington was prepared to hold discussions on such issues with Beijing.

"Our Navy will continue to operate in international waters in accordance with customary international law and we expect China to exercise due regard for the safety of our ships," the statement said.

The *Impeccable* is one of five Navy surveillance ships that probe the ocean to gather acoustic data in an effort to detect underwater threats. The craft was specifically designed to use underwater listening devices to augment the Navy's anti-submarine capability.

China views almost the entirety of the South China Sea as its territory. Its claims to small islets in the region have put it at odds with five governments—the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Beijing argues that any intelligence data gathering by foreign governments within its exclusive economic zone is illegal, although the U.S. and other nations say only exploitation of economic resources such as undersea gas deposits is restricted.

Dalai Lama blasts 'brutal crackdown' in Tibet

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—Chinese rule in Tibet has created a "hell on earth" that has caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Tibetans, the Dalai Lama said Tuesday in a speech to mark the 50th anniversary of the failed uprising that sent him into exile.

Speaking to thousands of supporters, the Tibetan spiritual leader said Chinese martial law, and hard-line policies such as the Cultural Revolution, had devastated the Himalayan region.

"These thrust Tibetans into such depths of suffering and hardship that they literally experienced hell on earth," he said in this Indian hill town, where he and the self-proclaimed government-in-exile have been based since shortly after fleeing their homeland. "The immediate result of these cam-

China on alert for unrest on key Tibet anniversary

KANGDING, China (AP)—Authorities in Tibet and restive parts of western China were on heightened alert Tuesday for possible unrest on the 50th anniversary of a failed uprising against Chinese rule and the Dalai Lama's flight from Tibet.

Residents and businesses in the regional capital of Lhasa reported seeing increased patrols of armed police throughout the city.

"There are more paramilitary police in the streets.

They're at bus stations, road intersections, even small alleys," said a staffer at the West Tour Go tourism agency in the capital, who declined to give his name. Calling it a sensitive time, he said the stepped up security "actually makes me feel safer. The police will get rid of any small riots."

Photos taken on the eve of the anniversary showed squads of paramilitary police carrying automatic rifles across their chests patrolling the streets around the

Jokhang temple, Tibetan Buddhism's holiest shrine.

Beijing has sought to head off trouble on the anniversary that marks the start of the 1959 abortive Tibetan revolt against Chinese rule. A peaceful commemoration last year by monks in Lhasa, Tibet's regional capital, erupted into rioting against Chinese rule four days later and spread to surrounding provinces—the most sustained and violent demonstrations by Tibetans in decades.

paings was the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Tibetans."

Tibetan culture and identity are "nearing extinction," he told

about 2,000 people, including Buddhist monks, Tibetan schoolchildren and a handful of foreign supporters. The group gathered

in a courtyard that separates the Dalai Lama's home from the town's main temple, and monks blowing enormous conch shells

and long brass horns heralded his arrival. "Even today, Tibetans in Tibet live in constant fear and the Chinese authorities remain constantly suspicious of them," the Dalai Lama said.

While his comments were unusually strong for a man known for his deeply pacifist beliefs, he also urged that any change come peacefully and reiterated his support for the "Middle Way," which calls for significant Tibetan autonomy under Chinese rule.

"I have no doubt that the justice of Tibetan cause will prevail if we continue to tread a path of truth and nonviolence," he said.

After his speech, thousands of young Tibetans took to the streets of Dharmasala chanting "China Out!" and "Tibet belongs to Tibetans!"

World

N. Ireland police say officer shot dead in ambush

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—Gunmen killed an officer in an attack on a Northern Ireland police patrol Monday, authorities said, two days after Irish Republican Army dissidents shot to death two British soldiers. The shootings fanned fears of a return to retaliatory violence after years of fragile peace.

The latest killing came even as British security chiefs appealed for public help to catch the soldiers' killers—a hunt that challenges Catholics to inform on their own as never before.

"We are staring into the abyss," warned a moderate Catholic politician, Dolores Kelly, after police confirmed that the officer was fatally shot in the head while sitting in his patrol car in the religiously divided town of Craigavon.

No group claimed responsibility, but politicians and an analyst blamed the Real IRA, the splinter group that admitted blame for Saturday's fatal shooting of two soldiers who were collecting pizzas from outside an army base.

The dissident violence resulted in the first killings of security forces in Northern Ireland since 1997—the year before rival British Protestant and Irish Catholic politicians tried to leave behind decades of bloodshed by striking a peace deal that called for paramilitary disarmament and a future of Catholic-Protestant cooperation in government.

"There is little point appealing to the people who planned and did this, but all of us have to realize we are on the brink of something absolutely awful," said Kelly, a member of a Catho-



A Police Service of Northern Ireland officer aims his rifle as he takes up position near Lismore Manor, Craigavon, Northern Ireland, Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

lic-Protestant panel that oversees the police. "All of us have to get together to pull ourselves back from the brink. A tiny handful of people with nothing to say and nothing to offer cannot be allowed to destroy so much."

So far, Protestant paramilitary outlaws have maintained their 1994 cease-fire. Before the latest attack, Protestant politicians appealed for their side's extremists not to attack Catholic civilians in revenge.

A Protestant politician on the policing panel, Basil McCrea, said he had no doubt that IRA

dissidents also committed Monday night's attack. He said he expected the Real IRA to mount another attack, "but we didn't think it would be so soon."

The surge in dissident violence is raising particular pressure on Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party that is the major Irish Catholic player in Northern Ireland's power-sharing administration with Protestants.

Sinn Fein swiftly condemned the most recent killing, but Protestants have appealed to their Catholic partners to take the next, painful step away from past be-

liefs and inform police about Real IRA die-hards sheltering in the most hard-line Irish nationalist districts of this British territory.

Police investigating Saturday's killings conceded they would have difficulty catching and prosecuting the two gunmen and their getaway driver unless the killers' neighbors break Northern Ireland's traditional code of silence on such matters. Any who do risk attacks against them and their families.

"We need public support. We will do everything in our power to protect those people

who come forward," said Chief Superintendent Derek Williamson, the policeman leading the investigation. He said Real IRA sympathizers were likely harboring the killers somewhere in a Catholic district.

Sinn Fein lawmaker Gerry Kelly, who once led IRA car-bomb attacks in London and the biggest prison escape in British history, said many in the party's grass roots understood they needed to cooperate with police. But they still considered helping police to arrest IRA dissidents a bridge too far.

Time running out for US troops in violent Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Grenades lie unattended next to a west Mosul bazaar. Garbage bags throughout the city are searched daily for bombs. At a sprawling sheep market, Iraqi army soldiers are careful not to kick over rocks for fear of setting off hidden explosives.

War has ebbed in most parts of Iraq, but not in Mosul, the third-largest city and al-Qaida's last stronghold in the fragile new de-

mocracy. And time is running out on the around-the-clock U.S. military patrols of Mosul. U.S. troops must vacate cities by June 30 under an agreement with the Iraqis, and President Barack Obama is ending all American combat operations after August 2010.

The Iraqi security forces are not sure they'll be ready.

"If you don't have the Americans, this is not going to be good," said an Iraqi army captain who

gave his name only as Ahmed to protect his family from insurgents. "I cannot take care of it."

Even so, "some people don't like coalition forces here," Ahmed added as his soldiers joined U.S. troops at the sheep market in west Mosul last week. "Iraqi people will come together, and it will be better."

Whether they will be safe in Mosul is anyone's guess.

In poverty-stricken Mosul, a

Sunni-dominated city of about 2 million where the unemployment rate has risen even higher than the many trash piles, the U.S. military has long fought to contain al-Qaida from resurging in the rest of Iraq.

Still, al-Qaida is only one of the military's worries.

On Monday, gunmen opened fire on a checkpoint in the western New Mosul neighborhood, killing two policemen

and wounding one civilian.

Explosives are part of the daily cacophony in Mosul; the U.S. Army reported six bombs either found or detonated in the city last Thursday and Friday, one of which wounded an Iraqi soldier. Iraqi security forces themselves pose a threat: three American soldiers have been killed in Mosul since November by gunmen wearing Iraqi army or police uniforms.

Sudan frees president's chief opponent

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Sudan freed a senior opposition leader Monday who was jailed after urging the president to face war crimes charges, an apparent attempt to show unity as the country defies an international order to bring its leader to trial over bloodshed in Darfur.

Hassan Turabi, an Islamist who helped bring President Omar al-Bashir to power but now is his top rival, is the only Sudanese politician who has dared say al-Bashir should surrender to an international court. Turabi was jailed for seven

weeks, a move criticized both internationally and locally.

The government appears to be confident that freeing Turabi ensures his Popular National Congress Party will ultimately stand behind the president, even if Turabi doesn't change his views.

At his home in Khartoum on Monday, Turabi criticized al-Bashir's defiance of the Netherlands-based International Criminal Court and condemned the government's expulsion of major foreign aid groups from Darfur in retaliation for the warrant.

Study: Belligerent chimp proves animals make plans

STOCKHOLM (AP)—A canny chimpanzee who calmly collected a stash of rocks and then hurled them at zoo visitors in fits of rage has confirmed that apes can plan ahead just like humans, a Swedish study said Monday. Santino the chimpanzee's anti-social behavior stunned both visitors and keepers at the Furuviik Zoo but fascinated researchers because it was so carefully prepared.

According to a report in the journal *Current Biology*, the 31-year-old alpha male started building his weapons cache in the morning before the zoo

opened, collecting rocks and knocking out disks from concrete boulders inside his enclosure. He waited until around midday before he unleashed a "hailstorm" of rocks against visitors, the study said.

"These observations convincingly show that our fellow apes do consider the future in a very complex way," said the author of the report, Lund University Ph.D. student Mathias Osvath. "It implies that they have a highly developed consciousness, including lifelike mental simulations of potential events."

Osvath's findings were based on his own observations of Santino and interviews with three senior caretakers who had followed the chimpanzee's behavior for 10 years at the zoo in Furuviik, about 93 miles (150 kilometers) north of Stockholm.

Seemingly at ease with his position as leader of the group, Santino didn't attack the other chimpanzees, Osvath told The Associated Press. The attacks were only directed at humans viewing the apes across the moat surrounding the island compound where they were held.

WORLD BRIEFS

Zimbabwe premier: Car crash was an accident

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's prime minister said Monday that a car crash that killed his wife was an accident and that there was "no foul play" in the collision, despite at least three previous assassination attempts against him. Wearing dark glasses over a swollen eye after undergoing treatment for his injuries, Morgan Tsvangirai told supporters he would overcome the loss of his wife, Susan, and continue moving ahead with Zimbabwe's unity government. Zimbabwe's long history of political violence blamed on President Robert Mugabe's forces fueled speculation that the Friday crash was not accidental. A number of Mugabe's opponents have been killed in suspicious car accidents. But Tsvangirai said: "In this case I want to say there is no foul play. It was an accident that unfortunately took away her life." Tsvangirai returned to Zimbabwe's capital Monday after receiving medical treatment in neighboring Botswana.

Violence in Mexican state of Guerrero kills 6

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen killed six people, including a local police chief, in a series of attacks Monday in mountain towns in the Pacific coast state of Guerrero. The police chief of Pungarabato was repeatedly shot while driving his red Mustang on a highway near the small town early Monday, Guerrero state public safety department said in a news release. Five other men were found gunned down in different towns in the isolated mountainous zone known as the Tierra Caliente, or the Hot Land, the state police said. In the border city of Tijuana, soldiers detained 60 people at a party, including a suspected drug hit man accused of cutting up bodies.

Saudi court sentences 75-year-old woman to lashes

CAIRO (AP)—A 75-year-old widow in Saudi Arabia has been sentenced to 40 lashes and four months in jail for mingling with two young men who are not close relatives, drawing new criticism for the kingdom's ultraconservative religious police and judiciary. The woman's lawyer told The Associated Press on Monday that he would appeal the verdict against Khamisa Sawadi, who is Syrian but was married to a Saudi. The attorney, Abdel Rahman al-Lahem, said the verdict issued March 3 also demands that Sawadi be deported after serving her sentence. He said his client, who is not serving her sentence yet, was not speaking with the media, and he declined to provide more details about the case.

Campus Life

Fighting for students' interests at NMC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The president of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, Ivan Mereb, shares with Saipan Tribune his thoughts and views about serving the island's students. In his last term in office, he vows to leave colleagues with a legacy of good leadership on campus.

Question: What is the most challenging role you play for NMC students as their leader?

Answer: There are many challenging responsibilities in being a student leader at NMC. One of these is ensuring that you maintain a high level of trust between the student body and the student government. I do this by regularly making myself available and approachable to all students.

Q: What fulfillment do you get in serving NMC students?

A: I get the satisfaction of knowing that I have been able to represent their interests well at all levels.



Ivan Mereb, left, president of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, leads an activity organized by the student organization.

Q: How do you balance your time as a full time student and a busy student

leader on campus?

A: Carefully.

Q: What are the greatest

expectations of the college from you?

A: To honor my oath as

ASNMC president, which mandates that I be a strong advocate for all NMC students.

Q: How does your role of being a leader help you as an individual?

A: Having served as a student leader has elevated my confidence, has helped me build cooperation among different people and groups, and has exposed me to many different aspects of governing effectively.

Q: What do you think are the important issues students at NMC face at present?

A: One of the most important issues facing the students, as well as everyone at NMC, is obtaining accreditation reaffirmation.

Q: How are you dealing

with these issues?

A: We make sure that students are well represented in the different governance bodies at NMC. We also ensure that the student voice is heard during important discussions and dialogues that affect the college. We also help out in other college activities and community events to make sure that our student body is active in whatever effort needs to be done to get accreditation reaffirmed.

Q: What do you think are the characteristics a good and effective student leader must possess?

A: Any good leader must be committed, must be instilled with pride, and must act morally for the good of those who he or she leads and not for any personal gain.

Q: What legacy would you want to leave with your colleagues in the college?

A: I want to be remembered as someone who was passionate, outspoken, and someone who always fought for student interests.



Butters

Kagman high student joins scholars group

Kagman High School student Kenlyn P. Butters from Saipan has been selected for membership to the National Society of High School Scholars.

The Society recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence.

Butters' selection was recently announced by NSHSS founder and chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard

work, sacrifice and commitment that Kenlyn P. Butters has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Nobel. "Kenlyn P. Butters is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

"Our vision is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful contents, resources, and opportunities," said NSHSS president James Lewis. "We aim to help students like Kenlyn P. Butters build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community."

Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, members-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items and publicity honors.

Formed in 2002, the National Society of High School Scholars recognizes academic excellence at the high level and encourages members of the organizations to apply their unique talents, vision, and potential for the betterment of themselves and the world. Currently, there are more than 300,000 society members in over 120 countries. NSHSS provides scholarship opportunities for deserving young people.

For more information about NSHSS, visit www.nshss.org. (PR)



Fred J. Castro has his picture taken with Universal Technical Institute president Adrian Cordova.



Congratulations Fred and thank you Che' for being there for him. May God continue to bless you both. Greetings come from Auntie Olang and LiaGirl in Dallas, TX.

NEW GRADUATE

Another island boy, Fred J. Castro, recently graduated from the Universal Technical Institute in Avondale, Arizona. Fred graduated with honors. He is the spouse of Cherry Ann Agulto-Castro and both are from Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PGFC CHAMPS

First grade students of Grace Christian Academy dominated the Impromptu Speaking K-2 division during the regional Primary Grade Forensic Conference held Saturday, March 7, 2009, at Marianas High School. From left to right: First place, Matt Jason Moran; second place, Martin Pangilinan; and third place, Arvin Dayao. Also in the photo is class adviser/coach Leah Garfil.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

Last of a two-part series

John Zwerling presents a passable version of Nero Wolfe, Rex Stout's portly, eccentric genius hero of detective fiction. Zwerling's law offices are in a handsome townhouse with dark walnut molding and dark wooden shutters. The boss is the guy with the Santa beard sitting in the chair with a hole in the leather, in jeans and a shirt with a big stain, the front buttons laboring mightily to do their job.

Zwerling's first task, he says, was to make the case that second-degree murder was a preposterous charge in a case lacking even the faintest whisper of intent. That, he did. After a preliminary hearing, the charge was reduced to involuntary manslaughter. Zwerling's second and more daunting job was to craft a defense for a case that was being prosecuted with what at times seemed like theatrical zeal.

Here is how Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Elizabeth Killeen would sum it up before the jury: "This little boy's life did not have to end this way, on a hospital gurney. Deceased. Dead. His life squandered, and gone forever."

In the end, Zwerling had one key decision to make. In criminal cases, jurors want to hear from the defendant. Zwerling liked and respected Lyn Balfour, but should he put her on the stand?

"Have you met her?" he asks.

Yes.

"Then you've seen that mental girle she puts on, the protective armor against the world, how she closes up and becomes a soldier. It helps her survive, but it can seem off-putting if you're someone who wants to see how crushed she is." Zwerling decided not to risk it.

"I wound up putting her on the stand in a different way," he says, "so people could see the real Lyn—vulnerable, with no guile, no posturing."

What Zwerling did was play two audiotapes for the jury. One was Balfour's interrogation by police in the hospital about an hour after Bryce's death; her answers are immeasurably sad, almost unintelligible, half sob, half whisper: "I killed my baby," she says tremulously. "Oh, God, I'm so sorry."

The second tape was a call to 911 made by a passerby, in those first few seconds after Balfour discovered the body and beseeched a stranger to summon help.

Zwerling swivels to his computer, punches up an audio file.

"Want to hear it?"

Balfour is reenacting her movements from that day after work. She walks from her cubicle in room 153A of the JAG school, out to the front of the building. By mid-afternoon she had finally checked her cell and discovered she'd missed an early morning call from her babysitter. She called back, but got only voice mail. It didn't worry her. She and the babysitter were friends, and they talked often about all sorts of things. Balfour left a message asking for a callback.

It came when she was standing where she is now, on a spacious stone patio in front of the JAG school, heading toward the parking lot. As it happens, there is a Civil War-era cannon that is aimed, with unsettling irony, exactly where she stands.

The babysitter asked Balfour where

Fatal distraction

By GENE WEINGARTEN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST



THE WASHINGTON POST

Raelyn "Lyn" Balfour of Ruckersville, Va., now expecting her fourth child, accidentally left her son Bryce in the back seat of her car in her workplace parking lot in March 2007. The 9-month-old died of hyperthermia.

Bryce was. Balfour said: "What do you mean? He's with you."

It is 60 feet to the end of the patio, then a stairwell with 11 steps down, then two steps across, then a second stairwell, 12 steps down, one more off the curb and then a 30-foot sprint to the car. Balfour estimates the whole thing took half a minute or less. She knew it was too late when, through the window, she saw Bryce's limp hand, and then his face, unmarked but lifeless and shiny, Balfour says, "like a porcelain doll."

It was seconds later that the passerby called 911.

The tape is unendurable. Mostly, you hear a woman's voice, tense but precise, explaining to a police dispatcher what she is seeing. Initially, there's nothing in the background. Then Balfour howls at the top of her lungs, "OH, MY GOD, NOOOO!"

Then, for a few seconds, nothing.

Then a deafening shriek: "NO, NO, PLEASE, NO!!!"

Three more seconds, then: "PLEASE, GOD, NO, PLEASE!!!"

What is happening is that Balfour is administering CPR. At that moment, she recalls, she felt like two people occupying one body: Lyn, the crisply efficient certified combat lifesaver, and Lyn, the incompetent mother who would never again know happiness.

Breathe, compress, breathe, compress. Each time that she came up for air, she lost it. Then, back to the patient.

After hearing this tape, the jury deliberated for all of 90 minutes, including time for lunch. The not-guilty verdict was unanimous.

"I didn't feel this case should ever have been brought," says juror Colin Rosse, a retired radio executive. "It may have been negligence, but it was an honest mistake."

Jury foreman James Schlothauer, an inspections official for the county government, doesn't fault the prosecution; Balfour's case was complex, he says, and the facts needed an airing. But the facts, he says, also made the verdict a slam dunk. It was "a big doggone accident," he says, that might have happened to anyone.

To anyone?

Schlothauer hesitates.

"Well, it happened to me."

The results were not catastrophic, Schlothauer says, but the underlying malfunction was similar: Busy and stressed, he and his wife once got their responsibilities confused, and neither stopped at day care for their daughter at the end of the day.

"We both got home, and it was, 'Wait, where's Lily?' 'I thought you got her!' 'I thought you got her!'"

What if that mix-up had happened at the beginning of the day?

"To anyone," Schlothauer says.

"This is a case of pure evil negligence of the worse kind . . . He deserves the death sentence."

"I wonder if this was his way of telling his wife that he didn't really want a kid."

"He was too busy chasing after real estate commissions. This shows how morally corrupt people in real estate-related professions are."

These were readers' online comments to *The Washington Post* news article of July 10, 2008, reporting the circumstances of the death of Miles Harrison's son. These comments were typical of many others, and they are typical of what happens again and again, year after year in community after community, when these cases arise. A substantial proportion of the public reacts not merely with anger, but with frothing vitriol.

Ed Hickling believes he knows why. Hickling is a clinical psychologist from Albany, N.Y., who has studied the effects of fatal auto accidents on the drivers who survive them. He says these people are often judged with disproportionate harshness by the public, even when it was clearly an accident, and even when it was in-

disputably not their fault.

Humans, Hickling said, have a fundamental need to create and maintain a narrative for their lives in which the universe is not implacable and heartless, that terrible things do not happen at random, and that catastrophe can be avoided if you are vigilant and responsible.

In hyperthermia cases, he believes, the parents are demonized for much the same reasons. "We are vulnerable, but we don't want to be reminded of that. We want to believe that the world is understandable and controllable and unthreatening, that if we follow the rules, we'll be OK. So, when this kind of thing happens to other people, we need to put them in a different category from us. We don't want to resemble them, and the fact that we might is too terrifying to deal with. So, they have to be monsters."

After Lyn Balfour's acquittal, this comment appeared on the Charlottesville (Va.) News Web site:

"If she had too many things on her mind then she should have kept her legs closed and not had any kids. They should lock her in a car during a hot day and see what happens."

Lyn Balfour's Ruckersville, Va., home is fragrant with spice candles and the faintly sweet feel of kitsch. Braiden bounces happily in a baby bouncer, the same one Bryce had, and crawls on a patchwork comforter that had been Bryce's, too. As Balfour is text-messaging Jarrett in Iraq, she's checking out Braiden's diaper, multitasking as always.

"People say I'm a strong woman," Balfour says, "but I'm not. It's just that when I grieve, I grieve alone . . ."

The pacifier pops out of Braiden's mouth. Balfour rinses it, pops it back in.

" . . . because deep down I feel I don't have the right to grieve in front of others."

Balfour says she has carefully crafted the face she shows the world.

"I would like to disappear, to move someplace where no one knows who I am and what I did. I would do that in a heartbeat, but I can't. I have to say my name. I'm the lady who killed her child, and I have to be that lady because I promised Bryce."

The promise, she says, came as she held her son's body in the hospital. "I kissed him for the last time, and I told him how sorry I was, and I said I would do everything in my power to make sure this will never happen to another child."

Balfour has done this in a way suited to her personality; she has become a modern, maternal version of the Ancient Mariner, from time to time brazenly belying up to strangers in places such as Sam's Club and starting a conversation about children, so she can tell them what she did to one of hers. An in-your-face cautionary tale.

Unlike most parents to whom this has happened, Balfour will talk to the media, anytime. She works with Kids and Cars, telling her story repeatedly. Her point is always consistent, always resolute, always tinged with a little anger, always a little self-serving, sometimes a bit abrasive: This can happen to anyone. This is a mistake, not a crime, and should not be prosecuted. Cars need safety devices to prevent this. She seldom seems in doubt or in particular anguish. No one sees her cry.

"The truth is," she says, "the pain

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FATAL

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never gets less. It's never dulled. I just put it away for a while, until I'm in private. "

Balfour doesn't like to think about Bryce's final ordeal. A kindly doctor once told her that her son probably didn't suffer a great deal, and she clings to this resolutely. In her mind, Bryce died unafraid, surrounded by consoling angels. The deity Balfour believes in loves us unconditionally and takes a direct hand in our lives; this delivers comfort, but also doubt.

"When I was 16 in high school," she says, "I was date-raped. I had an abortion. I never told anyone, not my friends and not my mother. As the abortion was happening, I prayed to God and asked Him to take the baby back, and give him back to me when I could take care of him."

So . . . ?
"So, I do wonder, sometimes . . .

Balfour wipes a tear.

" . . . It's there in the back of my mind, that what happened to me is punishment from God. I killed a child, and then I had one ripped away from me at the peak of my happiness."

On the floor, Braiden is entranced by an Elmo doll.

"Sometimes," Balfour says, "I wish I had died in childbirth with him . . ."

She's weeping now. For the moment, there's no soldier left.

" . . . that way, Jarrett could have Braiden, and I could be with Bryce."

Miles Harrison is in a Starbucks in Leesburg, Va., seated next to the condiment station, pulling napkin after napkin to dry his eyes.

"I hurt my wife so much," he says, "and by the grace of whatever wonderful quality is within her, she has forgiven me. And that makes me feel even worse. Because I can't forgive me."

In the months after he was acquitted in the death of his son, Harrison's public agony continued. His mug shot was back in the newspapers after the Russian Foreign Ministry officially protested his acquittal and threatened to halt the country's adoption program with Americans. It was something of an international incident.

For months, Harrison declined to speak for this article, but in early February, he said he was ready.

"I pray for forgiveness from the Russian people," he said. "There are good people in this country who deserve children, and there are children in Russia who need parents. Please don't punish everyone for my mistake."

Harrison is a Roman Catholic. Weeks after Chase's death, he returned to his local church, where priest and parishioners left him to grieve in solitude. Afterward, the priest embraced him and whispered in his ear: "I will always be here for you."

The church is St. Francis de Sales in Purcellville, Va. The

priest was Father Michael Kelly. On New Year's Eve, on a wind-swept road after a heavy rain, as Father Michael stopped to move a tree that had fallen across the road, he was struck by another falling tree and killed.

Harrison doesn't know what to make of this; nothing entirely holds together anymore, except, to his astonishment, his marriage.

In their home, Carol and Miles Harrison have kept Chase's nursery exactly as it was, and the child's photos are all over. "Sometimes we'll look at a picture together," Harrison says, "and I will see Carol cry. She tries not to let me see, but I see, and I feel such guilt and hurt."

Harrison says he knows it is unlikely he and Carol will be allowed to adopt again.

He leans forward, his voice breaking into a sobbing falsetto, as it did in the courtroom at his worse moment of shame.

"I have cheated her out of being a mother."

In Starbucks, heads turn.

"She would be the best mother in the world."

The first time, someone answers the phone but doesn't say anything. There is just the sound of a TV turned up way too loud, and after a little while, the phone clicks dead. A few days later, he answers, but the TV is not lowered. Call back later, he says. On the third day, he takes the call.

Are you doing OK?

"I don't even know. Tryin' to take it day by day."

Andrew Culpepper's voice is a flat monotone, like a man in a trance. His sentences are short and truncated. This is the sanitation department electrician in Portsmouth, the lucky one. He was the man who wasn't criminally charged when Miles Harrison was. He never had to legally defend himself.

Are you alone now?

"Yeah. "

She left you?

"Yeah. She's hurt and stuff. Dealing with it her way, I guess."

Are you thankful you weren't prosecuted?

No answer.

Andrew?

"Not for myself, for my parents. Doesn't matter what they do to me. Nothing I don't do to myself every day."

Are you sure you're OK?

"I try to take my mind off it. When I start thinking about it, I get like . . ."

Like what?

Silence for the longest time.

"Like this."

As part of her plan to simplify her life, Lyn Balfour has quit her job. It's going to get a little more complicated soon, because she's pregnant again: The insemination that she had on that day in October was successful. The baby is due in July.

Balfour's lawyers petitioned the court to get the record of her prosecution expunged. Such a request is usually unopposed after an acquittal, in recognition that a legally innocent person has a right

to start again with a legally clean slate. But in this case, Commonwealth's Attorney Dave Chapman challenged it and, unusually, argued the relatively small legal battle himself.

Outside the courthouse, Chapman explained: "It's very rare to oppose expungement. But we are, because of the enormity of this case, because it is the sole public record of the death of a completely defenseless and helpless infant."

After a half-day hearing, the judge ruled for the commonwealth, saying Balfour had failed to prove that she would suffer a "manifest injustice" if the court records remained unsealed.

Afterward, Balfour calmly answered questions from the news media, as always. She was unemotional, unapologetic, on message. She will consider an appeal. She will continue to speak out for greater public awareness of the dangers of leaving children alone in cars. She sounded, as always, just a little bit cold.

Jarrett Balfour finally made it home, after 18 months in Iraq, where his job was to analyze seized explosive devices made by insurgents and try to identify their technology and trace their origin. He extended his tour of duty twice, as the legal bills kept mounting. Jarrett is 30. He's tall, lanky and strikingly handsome, with sandy hair brushed straight back. He looks like a man leaning into a strong wind.

Initially after he got home, Jarrett says, things were awkward, with "hiccups" in communication. He would make an innocuous statement about something Braiden was doing, and Lyn would overreact, as if he were second-guessing her parenting skills. It's getting better, he says.

Braiden is 9 1/2 months old, exactly the age Bryce was when he died. Lyn has been having nightmares again.

Just before the tragedy, she had two dreams that seem to her, in retrospect, like foreboding. In one, she accidentally drowned Bryce; in the other, it was death by fire. Balfour believes these dreams were sent by God to help prepare her for what she was about to endure.

Recently she dreamed she lost control of Braiden's stroller, and it rolled out into traffic. No, she doesn't think it's the same thing, happening again.

"I couldn't take it again," Jarrett says quietly.

So, there are tensions. They are working it out. Both of them say they are confident this marriage will last.

After Jarrett leaves for work, Lyn talks about how much the presence of Braiden has helped them heal. She considers her family blessed because they've been able to have other children:

"Can you imagine losing your only child and not having a hope of having another? Can you imagine that despair?"

That's why, she says, she's made a decision. She's checked it out, and it would be legal.

Punishment

By GENE WEINGARTEN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

"I was that guy, before. I'd read the stories, and I'd go, 'What were those parents thinking?'"

Mikey Terry is a contractor from Maypearl, Texas, a big man with soft eyes. At the moment he realized what he'd done, he was in the cab of a truck and his 6-month-old daughter, Mika, was in a closed vehicle in the broiling Texas sun in a parking lot 40 miles away. So his frantic sprint to the car was conducted at 100 miles an hour in a 30-foot gooseneck trailer hauling thousands of pounds of lumber the size of telephone poles.

On that day in June 2005, Terry had been recently laid off, and he'd taken a day job building a wall in the auditorium of a Catholic church just outside of town. He'd remembered to drop his older daughter at day care, but as he was driving the baby to a different day care location, he got a call about a new permanent job. This really

There would be no way for any authority to stop it because it would fall into the class of a private adoption. She'd need a sperm donor and an egg donor, because she wouldn't want to use her own egg. That would make it too personal.

What is she saying, exactly? Miles and Carol Harrison de-



THE WASHINGTON POST
The Terrys in their Maypearl, Texas, home. From left: 7-year-old Macy, Mikey, 11-year-old Madison and Michele. Their daughter Mika was six months old when she died while in a hot parked car in 2005. "I don't feel blessed anymore. I feel I have been wronged by God. And that I have wronged God," says Mikey Terry.

caught his attention. It was a fatal distraction.

Terry, 35, wasn't charged with a crime. His punishment has been more subtle.

The Terrys are Southern Baptists. Before Mika's death, Mikey Terry says, church used to be every Sunday, all day Sunday, morning Bible study through evening meal. He and his wife, Michele, don't go much anymore. It's too confusing, he says.

serve another child, Balfour explains measuredly. They would be wonderful parents.

This is the woman you either like or don't like, right away. She is brassy and strong-willed and, depending on your viewpoint, refreshingly open or abrasively forward. Above all, she is decisive.

"I feel guilty about everyone in church talking about how blessed we all are. I don't feel blessed anymore. I feel I have been wronged by God. And that I have wronged God. And I don't know how to deal with that."

Four years have passed, but he still won't go near the Catholic church he'd been working at that day. As his daughter died outside, he was inside, building a wall on which would hang an enormous crucifix.

Balfour says she's made up her mind. If Miles and Carol Harrison are denied another adoption, if they exhaust all their options and are still without a baby, she will offer to carry one for them, as a gift.

Staff researcher Meg Smith contributed to this article.



Tenth Death Anniversary

We, the family of
our late beloved

Rita Camacho Terlaje-Reyes

humbly invites our family, relatives and friends
to join us in prayers as we commemorate the
Tenth Death Anniversary of our beloved wife, mother,
and grandmother's passage to eternal life.

Nightly Rosary will
be said at 7:00
p.m. beginning
March 14,
2009 at
the residence of her daughter
and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs.
Julian R./Janice R. Camacho.

On the final day, Saturday
March 21, anniversary mass
will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m.
Final rosary will be said at
12:00 p.m. Appreciation dinner
will immediately follow.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence
will forever be remembered.

Julian Q. Reyes, Children & Grandchildren



Did a Bard contemporary brush up on Shakespeare?

LONDON (AP)—The Bard, or not the Bard? That is the question posed by Monday's unveiling of a centuries-old portrait of a dark-eyed, handsome man in Elizabethan finery.

Experts say it is the only portrait of William Shakespeare painted during his lifetime—in effect, the sole source of our knowledge of what the great man looked like.

But they can't be certain. In the shifting sands of Shakespeare scholarship, where even the authorship of the plays is sometimes disputed, nothing is written in stone.

"We're 90 percent sure that it's Shakespeare," said Paul Edmondson, director of learning at the Shakespeare Learning Trust, which plans to exhibit the portrait in Stratford-on-Avon. "You'll never be entirely certain. There will always be voices of dissent."

Incredibly, the portrait has been in private hands for several centuries but the owners—the Cobbe family—had no idea the man in the painting was responsible for so many enduring masterpieces.

All that changed three years ago, Edmondson said, when one of the Cobbes (he won't say which one) walked into the National Portrait Gallery in London's Trafalgar Square to see a traveling exhibit called "Searching for Shakespeare."

One of the first things he saw

was a famous portrait of the Bard that usually hangs in the renowned Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington.

"His jaw dropped," said Edmondson. "He realized he had one at home. And the one he had at home turned out to be the original."

Edmondson said the portrait is far superior to the copies made after Shakespeare's death, including the famous 1623 engraving that graces the cover of the First Folio collection of Shakespeare's plays.

"This is Shakespeare alive, with fresh blood pumping through his veins, painted in his lifetime," Edmondson said with obvious pride. "The copies look dead by comparison."

He said scholars are convinced it is Shakespeare because so many copies of the painting were made, including the one at the Folger, and because the painting was handed down through the generations along with a portrait of the Earl of Southampton, Shakespeare's main patron.

The Cobbe collection curator, Mark Broch, spent three years researching the painting, and several sophisticated tests, including X-ray examinations, tree-ring dating on the wooden frame, and infrared imaging, were made to determine its age.

At the Folger Library, art and special collections curator Erin



A newly discovered portrait of William Shakespeare, presented by the Shakespeare Birthplace trust, is seen in central London, Monday March 9, 2009.

Blake agreed that their Shakespeare portrait is based on the one unveiled Monday, which officials have dubbed "the Cobbe portrait."

But she said it is impossible to verify beyond all doubt that the person in both portraits is Shakespeare, although circumstantial evidence suggests it is.

"It's very difficult," she said. "Not just for portraits of Shakespeare, but for finding documentation to identify portraits of anyone from that age beyond the royal family. The documentation doesn't survive. But people really want to find a portrait of Shakespeare."

She said there are doubts about whether the person in another famous depiction of Shakespeare, known as the Chandos portrait, is really the playwright. That portrait is housed at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

The person in the Chandos portrait strongly resembles the Shakespeare portrayed in the First Folio engraving. But Edmondson said this does not discredit his assertion that the Cobbe portrait forms the basis of the engraving.

"We don't say the Chandos portrait is not Shakespeare, but it bears no resemblance to ours," he said. "It's totally separate. It's also posthumous, not a live portrait."

Some scholars claim, however, that the Chandos portrait was, in fact, painted during the Bard's lifetime.

In separate discoveries that are solving other Shakespeare-related mysteries, Museum of London archaeologists said they had uncovered the foundations of the long-buried theater where Shakespeare wrote

and performed as an actor.

Museum officials said the rudimentary playhouse, simply called The Theatre, was built in 1576 by actor and theater promoter James Burbage. The site, where Shakespeare performed from 1594 to 1597, now houses an abandoned warehouse.

Experts believe "Romeo and Juliet" was performed there.

The playhouse remains were found on the site of an unused warehouse in Hackney on the eastern outskirts of London. Scholars say the theater there was dismantled and moved to the site of the more famous Globe Theater after a dispute between Burbage and the landlord in 1597.

Searchers even found pottery shards decorated with the image of a man who resembled Shakespeare, but experts said this was only a passing coincidence, not an indication that the show business merchandising craze had already begun.

"It doesn't mean that someone back then was trying to sell merchandise with Shakespeare's picture on it," said Museum of London spokesman Tim Morley.

The newly identified portrait of Shakespeare is to be put on public display at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-on-Avon from April 23 until Sept. 6. After that, it is expected to be returned to the Cobbes' private collection.

Martha Stewart's puppy dies in Pa. kennel blast



In this undated photo made available by Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, nine weeks old Ghenghis Khan is seen.

LEHIGHTON, Pa. (AP)—Martha Stewart's chow puppy was one of 17 dogs killed in an accidental propane explosion at an eastern Pennsylvania kennel.

The domestic maven wrote on her blog that she was "deeply saddened" by the death of her dog, Ghenghis Khan, in Friday's blast at Pazzazz Pet Boarding, a kennel in the Pocono Mountains that breeds and trains show dogs.

Fifteen dogs were killed in the explosion, and two more died over the weekend.

The kennel was getting a propane delivery when the tank ignited, setting the pens on fire and injuring the driver, Timothy Kleinhagen, of Summit Hill.

Though badly burned, Kleinhagen managed to toss a cairn terrier over the kennel fence to safety. He was listed in critical condition Monday at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

"That man is a hero," said the kennel's co-owner, Karen Tracy. "My heart goes out to his family."

Ghenghis Khan was a grand-

son of Stewart's previous chow, Paw Paw, which died last April at age 12.

Stewart announced on her blog in December that she was adopting Ghenghis Khan, then 7 weeks old, calling him "very cute and square." She said she expected him to be "conquering his new territory in my home soon, with great charm and prowess. I'm also confident that Sharkey and Francesca (Stewart's French bulldogs) will be enamored with him."

Stewart also sent condolences to Tracy. Many of the dead dogs belonged to Tracy and her mother.

"My heart goes out to Karen Tracy and I am hoping for a speedy recovery for those (both pets and humans) injured in this terrible event," Stewart wrote.

Officials have said a spark or static electricity may have started the blaze.

AmeriGas Propane Inc., which owned the truck that Kleinhagen was driving, has declined to comment.

Winfrey to air domestic violence show

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey says pop star Rihanna's alleged beating by singer boyfriend Chris Brown has the talk show queen so sad that she'll do a show dedicated to dating violence this week.

The hourlong episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" will air

live from Chicago on Thursday. Winfrey offered Rihanna advice on her Friday show, saying, "Heal yourself first and also, love doesn't hurt." She also told the couple they should seek counseling.

Winfrey says the Thursday episode is "dedicated to all the

Rihannas of the world" and will include guest Tyra Banks.

A Los Angeles police affidavit alleges that on Feb. 8, Brown punched, bit and choked Rihanna until she nearly lost consciousness. He has been charged with two felonies and will be arraigned in April.



ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

First edition Harry Potter sells for \$19,120

DALLAS (AP)—A softcover copy of the first Harry Potter book has sold for just over \$19,000, according to a Dallas auction house. "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" was one of only 200 copies from the first printing issued with illustrated wrappers by London publisher Bloomsbury. The 1997 work about the boy wizard was published in the United States as "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and includes an illustrated card signed by author J. K. Rowling. The winning bid of \$19,120 was nearly double the previous record for a softcover Harry Potter book, Heritage Auction Galleries says. The bidder was a vintage comic book collector from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates whose wife is a Harry Potter fan. Rowling went on to write seven books in the Potter series, which ended in 2007 and has sold more than 300 million copies worldwide.

First African-American comic book up for auction

NEW YORK (AP)—The comic book that's billed as the first ever created by African-Americans for a black audience is up for auction. A copy of All-Negro Comics No. 1, as it was called, is up for sale by comics entrepreneur Stephen Fishler. He says the comic is very rare—lasting one issue in 1947. All-Negro Comics sold for 15 cents and was the brainchild of a black Philadelphia journalist, Orrin C. Evans. The comic book, featuring such characters as detective Ace Harlem and Hep Chicks on Parade, is for sale as part of the online ComicConnect Event Auction. It began Feb. 27 and continues March 13, 14 and 15.

Holly Madison, Melissa Rycroft join 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hugh Hefner's ex-girlfriend Holly Madison and "The Bachelor" reject Melissa Rycroft are joining "Dancing With the Stars." The two reality stars replaced injured contestants Jewel and Nancy O'Dell, who dropped out of the competition last week. Madison, a star of "The Girls Next Door" and four-time Playboy cover model, replaced Jewel on Monday's season premiere. She spent five days rehearsing with Jewel's former professional partner, Dmitry Chaplin. Rycroft joined the cast just three days ago. Host Tom Bergeron said that makes her "the performer with the least amount of training in the history of the show."

Obama pays tribute to Christopher Reeve

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama paid tribute to the late actor Christopher Reeve, who emerged as an advocate for embryonic stem cell research after he was paralyzed in a horseback riding accident.

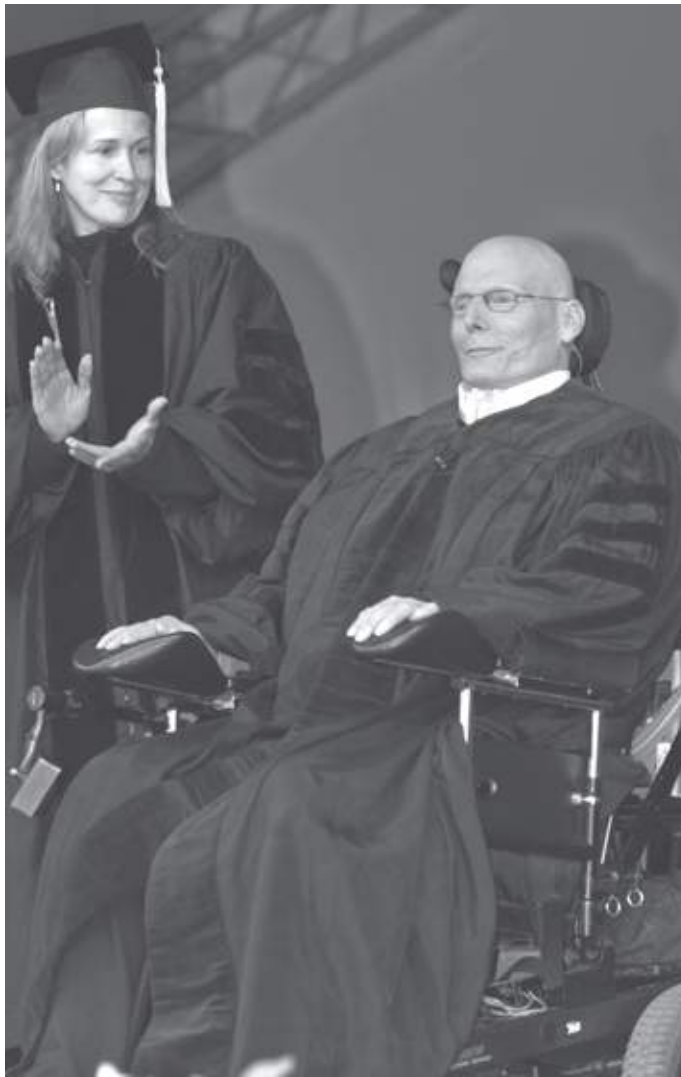
In lifting the ban on federal funds for stem cell research, Obama said Monday the nation owes a debt of gratitude to people like Reeve, who with his wife, Dana, created a founda-

tion dedicated to finding a cure for spinal cord injuries.

Obama recounted Christopher Reeve's fighting spirit, efforts to regain the ability to walk and upbeat outlook.

Obama said he wished Reeve and his wife could have been at the White House Monday to witness the event.

Christopher Reeve, who was injured in 1995, died in 2004 of heart failure. Dana Reeve died of lung cancer in 2006.



Actor and activist Christopher Reeve, right, is applauded by his wife Dana during commencement ceremonies at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., May 23, 2004. AP

Rapper "C-Murder" jailed after alleged violation

GRETN, La. (AP)—Rapper Corey "C-Murder" Miller has been booked back into jail in Louisiana after police said he broke the house-arrest rules imposed on him as he awaits trial.

Miller faces a second trial April 20 on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of a 16-year-old during a 2002 brawl at a New Orleans-area nightclub. As a condition of his \$500,000 bond, the 37-year-old rapper has been re-



Miller

stricted to his grandmother's home in Kenner.

Deputy Chief Chuck Whitmer of the Gretna Police Department says an electronic monitor early Monday indicated Miller was out of range, a violation of house arrest rules, for about 10 minutes. He was booked Monday into the Jefferson Parish jail.

Miller's attorney Ron Rakosky says his client was home sleeping.



Barrymore says she'd like to direct 'Twilight' film

NEW YORK (AP)—She starred as a buddy to that lovable alien E.T., but does Drew Barrymore have what it takes to direct vampires?

The 34-year-old actress ("E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial," the "Charlie's Angels" films) has confirmed that she's being considered for "Eclipse," the third movie in the blockbuster teen vamp saga that launched with "Twilight" last year.

"I'm one of the directors that is being talked about, which is great, because I'm a director now," Barrymore said in a recent interview. "But, you know, they'll make their choice."

"Eclipse" is slated for a summer 2010 release.

Chris Weitz ("The Golden Compass") is directing "The Twilight Saga: New Moon," the second film based on Stephenie Meyer's best-selling series. He took over the franchise from "Twilight" director Catherine Hardwicke.

"New Moon" will be in theaters in November.

Barrymore directed "Whip It!" starring Ellen Page ("Juno"), due in theaters this year.

She stars in the upcoming HBO movie "Grey Gardens," co-starring Jessica Lange and Jeanne Tripplehorn.

In this Jan. 11, 2009 file photo, Drew Barrymore poses backstage at the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

Michael J. Fox gives ABC his outlook on optimism

NEW YORK (AP)—Since his diagnosis with Parkinson's Disease cut short his acting career, Michael J. Fox has every reason to be a pessimist.

Instead, he's doing a special for ABC in May about the nature of optimism. Fox explores science and his own personal experiences—he says the past decade since his diagnosis have been among his happi-



Fox

est. Fox starred in the sitcoms "Family Ties" and "Spin City," as well as the "Back to the Future" movie series.

For his special, Fox visits the Himalayan nation of Bhutan, which he says is unusually committed to the well-being of its citizens. "Michael J. Fox: Adventures of an Incurable Optimist" airs on May 7.

'Other woman' advises wives on how to care for marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am the "other woman." I never in a million years thought I'd be in this position. I had been divorced for several years. I should have run the other way once I learned that my lover was married, but I was lonely. I wanted to feel like a woman again—someone a man found attractive and would like to spend time with.

Some things I have come to understand as the other woman: If husbands and wives treated each other as well as they do their best friends, there would be fewer affairs and cheating spouses. I don't consider myself a "mistress." There is no exchange of money, cars, jewels, furs and no condo or apartment for my use. Nor am I a home wrecker—my lover's marriage is still intact. What do I get? A wonderful lover, best friend and someone who helps me out around my home.

We give each other our undivided attention when we're together. We make the most of every opportunity we have to enjoy each other's company. I can't imagine life without him. We please and give to each other during our lovemaking. I believe we came into each other's lives for a reason.

Please advise men and women to love each other even when it hurts. Don't let issues fester into sores. Make love with your spouse even if it's not your cup of tea. Sex is a glue that can keep your marriage together. This connection brings a closeness words cannot describe. Don't lose that with your spouse. You'll long to have it back one day.

The other woman is not evil, a tramp or a whore. You could be her one day. She's just someone who is as lonely as the man is. Tell wives to protect their marriage, to swallow their pride, admit there are issues that need resolving and work through them. And one more thing: Don't think you will never be in my shoes.

THE OTHER WOMAN, ANYWHERE, U.S.A.

DEAR OTHER WOMAN: That's good advice. Now allow me to offer some to you. I, too, believe your lover came into your life for a reason. He was bored, you were needy and both of you were vulnerable.

The times your lover steals to be with you are hours he should be spending with his family. The passion he devotes to you guarantees that his energies won't be spent working on his marital problems.

You may be "best friends," but when the chips are down where do you think your lover will be? With his wife, his family and his money, Honey. If you need a handyman, hire one. And now that you know what mistakes NOT to make in a relationship, find a man who can be 100 percent yours and pray he has more character than your lover does.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How do I decline my girlfriend's request to be in the delivery room with her and her husband when she has her baby? I don't want to hurt her feelings. I will go with her to the hospital and wait in the waiting room, but I really don't want to see the show.

SQUEAMISH IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR SQUEAMISH: Tell her the truth—that you are honored to have been asked, but that you can't handle the sight of blood, and it would be better for all concerned if you stayed in the waiting room. And don't let her talk you out of it. At a special moment like this, the mother and baby should be the center of attention—not the friend who fainted, hit the floor and needed medical attention.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Police seize more than \$1 million from Phish fans

HAMPTON, Va. (AP)—Some Phish fans are leaving Hampton a little lighter than when they arrived for the band's weekend reunion.

Police said Monday they confiscated about \$1.2 million in illegal drugs and more than \$68,000 in cash from concertgoers. Authorities also arrested 194 Phish fans during the three-night celebration of the

band's return to the stage after a nearly five-year absence.

Most of the arrests were for drug possession, use and distribution, police said.

Tourism officials had estimated 75,000 fans would be coming to the coastal Virginia city. Nearly 200 law enforcement officers worked the weekend event, with the Vermont-based band picking up the tab.

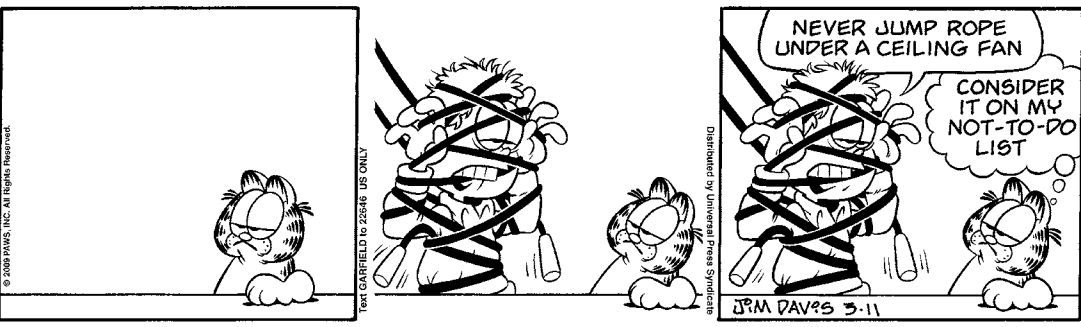
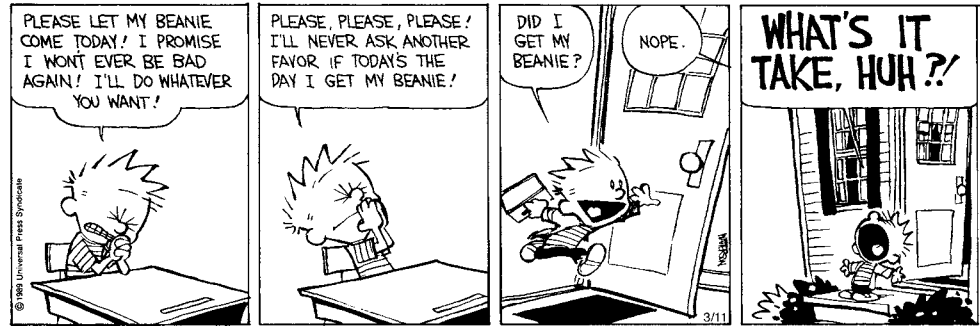
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

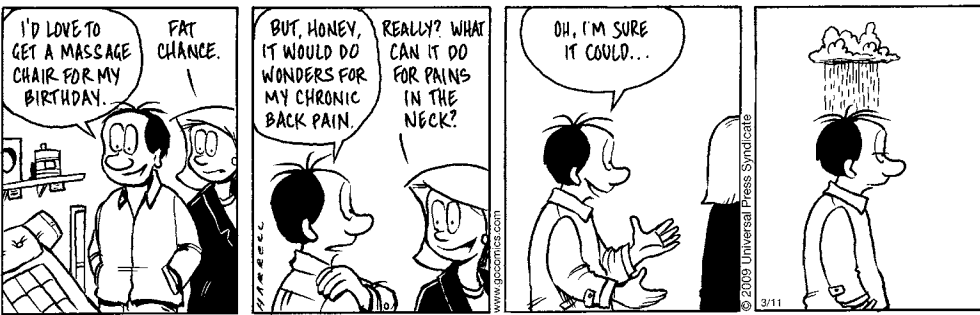


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



What a Wade! 3-pointer at end lifts Heat



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade decided two overtimes were enough, in emphatic fashion.

Miami's MVP candidate stole the ball from John Salmons with 4 seconds left, then made a running 3-pointer as time expired to lift the Heat to a wild 130-127 double-overtime win over the Chicago Bulls on Monday night.

"If Mr. Dwyane Tyrone Wade Jr., if he's not legitimately considered for an MVP candidate, I don't know what he needs to do," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We are currently a playoff contender and night after night, he's making incredible plays like this."

Wade—who finished with 48 points and 12 assists in 49 minutes, shooting 15-for-21 from the field—made a 3-pointer at the end of the first half, then again at the end of regulation.

And after missing a layup at the end of the first extra session, he more than atoned for that at the end.

Referees reviewed the play for more than two minutes, before Mark Wunderlich shot his hands in the air, officially giving Miami the win.

"We played a good game, both teams," Wade said. "Credit the Bulls. This is one of those games for the ages."

Michael Beasley had 18 points, Mario Chalmers added 17 and Jamarion Moon scored 13 for the Heat, who stayed within 1 1/2 games of Atlanta for the No. 4 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff chase.

Ben Gordon scored a season-high 43 points for the Bulls, including eight 3-pointers. Salmons scored 29 and Derrick Rose added 23 for the Bulls, who are now 0-3 against Miami this season.

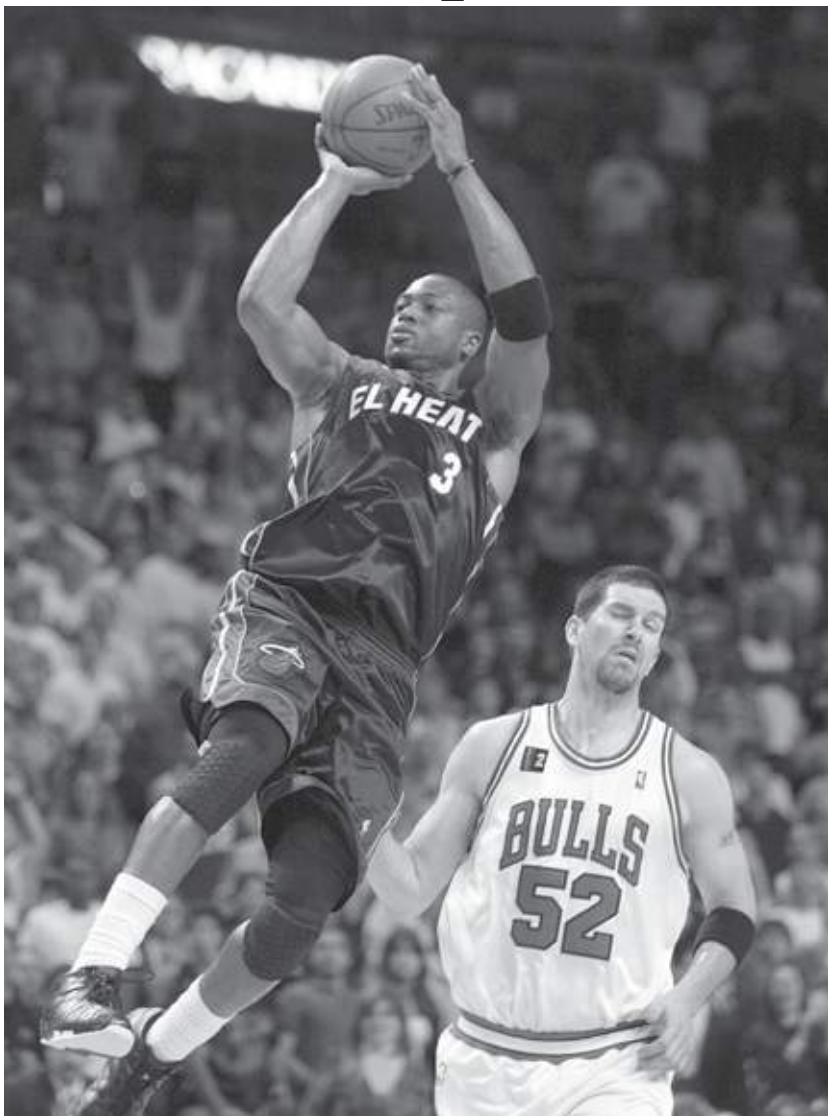
Beasley found Udonis Haslem for an easy two-hand slam to break a tie, then caught an alley-oop pass from Wade for a dunk and three-point play on the next possession by Miami, putting the Heat up 124-119 with 2:19 left.

Beasley hung on the rim for a second, letting out a scream of delight.

Wade walked slowly to the other end, bent over and gasped for air.

He certainly had a wild night. Wade made a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from near midcourt at the end half, sent it to overtime with another 3, then missed a reverse layup with less than 1 second left in the first overtime.

And when Tyrus Thomas had a follow-up slam with 1 minute left, the game was tied once again at 125. That wasn't the last, either: Wade's layup put



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) goes up for the game-winning shot in front of Chicago Bulls' Brad Miller during the second overtime of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 9, 2009, in Miami.

Miami up two, before Salmons knotted it on the next Chicago trip.

Wade decided that was enough, hitting his career-best fifth 3-pointer to end the game. Dribbling down the court, he said he was thinking what Spoelstra said in the game's final stoppage, telling players they had one more timeout left.

"I was about to call it," Wade said. "And then I said, 'Nah.'"

Miami led 84-74 entering the fourth, after Wade scored 27 points in the middle two quarters to recharge the Heat.

Miami trailed 11-1 in the early minutes and was down by 13 later in the half, but went into intermission with a 54-52 lead - thanks to Wade hitting a 31-footer with less than 1 second left before the break.

And that seemed like it would be the spark.

Wade had 15 points in the third quarter, the Heat led 84-70 late in the period and settled for the 10-point edge entering the

fourth, which typically is enough.

The Heat were 15-2 at home when taking leads into the final quarter; the Bulls were 4-19 on the road when trailing with 12 minutes left.

But Gordon—a career 21-point-per-game scorer against Miami—single-handedly got the Bulls back on top.

He scored 14 straight Chicago points in the final minutes of regulation, including hitting 3-pointers on four of five possessions in one stretch. Gordon then made one of two free throws with 20.7 seconds left, putting Chicago up 104-101.

That left Wade plenty of time.

The reigning Eastern Conference player of the week almost made it look easy, making a 3-pointer over Salmons for the final basket of regulation.

It was the 78th straight game where Wade scored in double figures, matching his franchise record. He's also scored at least 20 points in 19 straight games, putting him one away from

are necessary at the team level and at the league level. But I think that in our players and in our union, we find a group of realists that are sensitive of the needs of our fans and our sponsors, and I'm optimistic from that perspective that we will be able to ultimately work something out.

"I'm not optimistic or pessimistic about the economy, I'm just assuming the worst and hoping for the best as we seek to stabilize ourselves amid a storm of difficult economic times."

Stern said revenues will be "up a percent or 2" for this season, but he is "quite concerned" about next year.

"We certainly see that our sponsors are hurting, and we're working really hard to do what we can to minimize that hurt and to keep our business going."

matching the Heat record in that department—which he also owns.

But that was irrelevant in the end, as the Heat pulled out their biggest win of the year.

"It's definitely up there," Chalmers said. "We fought hard."

Trail Blazers 111, Lakers 94

At Portland, Ore., Brandon Roy scored 27 points and the Trail Blazers defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in a game marred by Portland's Rudy Fernandez being carried off the court on a stretcher after a hard foul.

Fernandez, a rookie from Spain, was hurt late in the third quarter when he was fouled by Trevor Ariza while going up for a shot. He was carried from the court on a stretcher with his neck in a brace.

Fernandez was conscious and alert when he left the court, and he had full movement of his extremities, the team said. But he was experiencing chest pain and was taken to a hospital.

Travis Outlaw added 22 points for the Blazers, who have won 12 straight at the Rose Garden.

Kobe Bryant had 26 points for the Lakers, who haven't won at the Rose Garden in their last seven tries, with their last victory on Feb. 23, 2005.

Hawks 89, Hornets 79

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 30 points and the Atlanta Hawks beat New Orleans, ending the Hornets' season-best seven-game winning streak.

Johnson had only 12 points in back-to-back games and was held under 20 points in four straight before re-emerging against the Hornets. He had 10 points in the third quarter and helped the Hawks protect the lead in the final period.

Johnson's 30 points are his most since a season-high 41 against Chicago on Dec. 27.

Chris Paul had 24 points and 10 assists, and David West added 16 points and 20 rebounds for New Orleans.

Wizards 110, Timberwolves 99

At Minneapolis, Caron Butler had 27 points, 10 rebounds and six assists to lead the Washington Wizards over the Minnesota Timberwolves in a matchup of teams

that had lost 14 straight combined.

Antawn Jamison added 26 points for the Wizards, who had lost five in a row and seven of their last eight.

Kevin Love had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Ryan Gomes scored 18 for the Timberwolves, who have lost 10 in a row and 15 of their last 16.

And the news may only be getting worse. Guard Randy Foye had to be carried to the locker room in the fourth quarter with a sprained right ankle. He went up to grab a high lob pass from Mike Miller, but crumpled to the court in pain.

Pistons 98, Magic 94

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Richard Hamilton scored 29 points and had a career-high 14 assists as the Detroit Pistons beat the Orlando Magic.

Detroit, already without Allen Iverson (back) for the sixth straight game, lost Rasheed Wallace to a calf injury late in the first quarter. Antonio McDyess, though, added 13 points and 18 rebounds to help the Pistons finish off a 3-0 season sweep of the Magic—a team they could face in the first round of the playoffs.

Dwight Howard had 27 points and 14 rebounds for Orlando, which has lost 19 of its last 24 regular-season meetings with the Pistons, and been eliminated by Detroit in each of the last two postseasons.

Rockets 97, Nuggets 95

At Denver, Ron Artest scored 22 points and Aaron Brooks added 19 in the Houston Rockets' win over the fading Denver Nuggets.

Brooks sank one of two free throws with 22.7 seconds left to give Houston a 93-90 lead. Linas Kleiza got the rebound and Denver called a timeout. But Chauncey Billups, who led the Nuggets with 28 points, missed a layup, and Kyle Lowry sank two free throws with 9.9 seconds left.

After Billups' bucket made it 95-92, Brooks sank two free throws, rendering moot J.R. Smith's 34-footer at the buzzer and securing Houston's 11th win in 13 games since Tracy McGrady's season-ending knee injury.

The Nuggets, who were the No. 2 seed in the West at the All-Star break, have slipped all the way to seventh in the conference with eight losses in 11 games.

Stern: No NBA 'doomsday scenario'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Commissioner David Stern says the NBA and union might have to make "some adjustments" to the labor contract when it expires in two years, but he foresees no "doomsday scenario" for the league because of the current economic crisis.

Minnesota Timberwolves coach Kevin McHale said recently the NBA had entered its own "Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac era of subprime loans" because of player salaries. He added that players will need to make substantial concessions at the bargaining table.

Agent David Falk predicted to The New York Times that the next round of talks will be "very, very extreme," and owners could shut down the league for a year or two if the players don't agree to the owners' demands.

"I'd just say the 'doomsday scenario' is that the NBA is somehow going to be irretrievably damaged by some event or another," Stern said Monday at George Washington University, where Washington Wizards owner Abe Pollin was inducted into the School of Business Sports Executives Hall of Fame. "The predictions of the demise of the NBA were frequent and profound [over the years], and they've always been wrong."

Last month, the NBA lined up \$200 million to distribute to teams needing additional cash.

"We've managed to keep the ship afloat, and I think we will continue to do that this time," Stern said. "I'm not unduly pessimistic. I think when we see where this economy comes out, there may be some adjustments that

Barkley finishes 36-hour jail stint

PHOENIX (AP)—Former NBA star Charles Barkley was released from jail Monday after serving a three-day sentence on a drunken-driving conviction.

Barkley left the Tent City jail just before 8 a.m., and avoided a group of reporters by leaving through another door, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Brian Lee said.

Barkley, a TNT studio analyst, reported to the jail Saturday morning wearing a blue warm-up suit with red stripes. He was not required to wear a jail uniform or the county's signature pink underwear because he got work release, Sheriff Joe Arpaio said.

Barkley spent about 36 hours in jail after getting 12 hours of work release on Sunday and Monday. He was housed in a separate tent from the other inmates for his safety, and meals were brought to him.

The 46-year-old Barkley pleaded guilty last month to two misdemean-

or DUI charges stemming from his Dec. 31 arrest, shortly after leaving a Scottsdale nightclub and failing a field sobriety test. He had a blood-alcohol level of .149 percent, nearly twice the legal limit.

A Scottsdale judge reduced Barkley's original 10-day sentence to three days after reviewing the case and deciding that seven days should be suspended if Barkley completes an alcohol-treatment program.

The Hall of Fame player also must pay more than \$2,000 in fines and install an ignition-interlock device on his vehicles.

Barkley said last month that he made a mistake and just has "to take the beatdown."

Barkley played 16 seasons for the Philadelphia 76ers, Phoenix Suns and Houston Rockets, and played on the USA Olympic "Dream Team" in 1992 and 1996. He was an 11-time All-Star and league MVP in 1993.

S. Korea edges Japan 1-0 to win group



TOKYO (AP)—Olympic champion South Korea has a knack for beating Japan in major international tournaments.

Kim Tae-kyun drove in the only run to help South Korea top Japan 1-0 on Monday and finish first in Group A of the World Baseball Classic.

Both teams had already advanced to the second round, and this game was to determine seedings. Defending champion Japan will face the Group B winner in the second round while South Korea takes on the Group B runner-up in its first game March 15 at San Diego.

Japan beat South Korea 14-2 on Saturday but couldn't come up with timely hits after Kim gave his team a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning on an RBI single down the third base line, scoring Lee Jong-wook from second.

"Japan beat us in the first game so it was nice to come back and get the win in this game," Kim said. "Japan's pitchers have a tendency to pitch inside. I just kept that in mind and was pleased to get a big hit."

South Korea improved to 3-1 in the tournament while Japan dropped to 2-1.

The game was the latest edition of an intense rivalry between two baseball-loving nations. Japan's rout of South Korea on Saturday was called after seven innings under the tournament's mercy rule.

South Korea beat Japan twice in the Beijing Olympics on the way to winning the gold medal. The South Koreans also beat Japan twice in the 2006 WBC before Japan won their semifinal matchup.

Japan defeated Cuba 10-6 in the final to win the inaugural WBC.

South Korea starter Bong Jung-keun held Japan to three hits over 5 1-3 scoreless innings to earn the win. Japan starter Hisashi Iwakuma, a 21-game winner last season for the Rakuten Eagles, gave up one run on two hits over 5 1-3 innings and took the loss.

Japan had a chance to tie the game in



Team South Korea first baseman Kim Tae-kyun hits an RBI single as Team Japan catcher Kenji Johjima of the Seattle Mariners looks on in the fourth inning of their World Baseball Classic game at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, Japan, Monday, March 9, 2009.

the eighth. Ichiro Suzuki got his first hit of the game with a one-out single off South Korea reliever Ryu Hyun-jin.

Suzuki advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Hiroyuki Nakajima, but Norichika Aoki grounded out to the

Gonzalez knocks in 6 in Mexico's 14-3 win

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Adrian Gonzalez hit two home runs and a double and drive in six runs to lead Mexico to a 14-3 victory Monday night that eliminated South Africa from the World Baseball Classic.

Elmer Dessens allowed two runs—one earned—in six innings for Mexico, which avoided elimination from Group B and will play the loser of Tuesday's Cuba-Australia game on Wednesday in another

elimination game.

Mexico broke open a 3-2 game with three runs in the seventh, taking advantage of a bases loaded walk by Jorge Cantu and a throwing error by first baseman Brett Willemburg.

Gonzalez highlighted a four-run eighth with a three-run shot, his second of the game.

South Africa starter Justin Erasmus allowed five hits and three runs in three innings.

pitcher to end the inning.

Nakajima has been one of Japan's best hitters in the opening round of the WBC and many will question Japan manager Tatsunori Hara's decision to have him bunt in that situation.

South Korea squandered a chance to widen the lead in the seventh. Kim Hyun-soo led off with a walk and advanced to third on a double by Kim Tae-kyun. Lee Dae-ho then hit into a double play before Lee Yong-kyu lined out to center field.

Puerto Rico 3, Netherlands 1

At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Yadier Molina's go-ahead double keyed a three-run rally in the eighth inning, and Puerto Rico beat a pesky Netherlands team to advance to the second round.

The Netherlands pulled off a major upset in its tournament opener Saturday, beating the Dominican Republic 3-2. The pitching staff, with coach Bert Blyleven in the dugout, also was impressive against favored Puerto Rico, protecting a 1-0 lead until the eighth.

Big league sluggers Carlos Delgado and Alex Rios opened the inning with walks. After Ivan Rodriguez struck out, Mike Aviles walked to load the bases and Molina followed with a two-run double to left off Leon Boyd that put Puerto Rico in front before a sold-out home crowd of 19,479 at Hiram Bithorn Stadium.

Jesus Feliciano's two-out RBI single made it 3-1.

J.C. Romero and Fernando Cabrera

combined for a perfect ninth, sending Puerto Rico to Miami for second-round action beginning Saturday.

The Netherlands will face the Dominican Republic again in an elimination game Tuesday night. The winner of that game will play Puerto Rico on Wednesday for first place in Group D.

Italy 6, Canada 2

At Toronto, some hitting tips from batting coach Mike Piazza helped Chris Denorfia and Italy to a big win.

Denorfia went 4-for-4 with three doubles, Alex Liddi drove in two runs and Italy eliminated Canada from the WBC by beating the Group C hosts.

Denorfia, a member of the Oakland Athletics, reached base five times and scored twice. He also knocked in two runs and made a diving catch on Joey Votto's sinking liner to center field in the seventh. His four hits and three doubles matched WBC records for a game.

Justin Morneau had four hits but it wasn't enough as Canada was stifled before a sparse crowd of 12,411, the smallest so far in four Group C games.

It was a quick and disappointing tournament exit for the Canadians, who featured a lineup that included major league stars Jason Bay, Russell Martin and Morneau. Canada looked tough in its first game, a 6-5 loss to a powerful United States squad in front of a lively home crowd at Rogers Centre.

Italy will play Venezuela on Tuesday in an elimination game. Venezuela beat the Italians 7-0 in their opener Saturday night.

A-Rod has arthroscopic surgery on right hip



TAMPA, Fla.

(AP)—Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez underwent arthroscopic surgery Monday to repair torn cartilage in his right hip, and doctors said they found nothing that would keep him from returning to the lineup in May. "The surgery went exactly as we planned," said Dr. Marc Philippon, who performed the 80-minute procedure at Vail Valley Surgery Center in Colorado. "No surprises."

Other options considered were a more aggressive surgery that would have sidelined Rodriguez up to four months or a conservative approach of rest and treatment.

"There is no doubt in our minds that this was the best option," Philippon said. "This was the best option for Alex and the Yankees."

General manager Brian Cashman expects the three-time AL MVP back on the field "sometime in May." Rodriguez will need a more extensive operation after the season, and Philippon said Rodriguez will "absolutely" be

ready for spring training in 2010.

Rodriguez was expected to be released from the hospital later Monday and to start his rehabilitation. He was to perform range of motion drills and ride a stationary bike.

"Alex is doing well," Philippon said. "Over the next few days, until Friday, we will work on his range of motion. Hopefully by Friday or Sunday, we will start working on his muscle memory and adding range of motion that involves the rotation of a batter when he swings."

Manager Joe Girardi said the immediate start of Rodriguez's rehab program was encouraging.

"That's pretty amazing," Girardi said after the Yankees lost 6-2 to Toronto. "That makes me feel like that the six to nine weeks is doable. The one thing about Alex, we know he's going to work and work and work. It might be a case that we have to hold him back a little bit."

Rodriguez suffered from a torn labrum—cartilage that lines the hip socket to stabilize and cushion the

joint. Philippon said he found a small impingement in the cartilage.

"Any athlete knows injuries are part of the game," Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira said. "It's not how you got injured, it's how you respond. I think Alex is going to be great. It's more important for him to be healthy during the stretch run and during our playoff push."

Toronto manager Cito Gaston said the Yankees can overcome the loss of Rodriguez at the start the regular season.

"They're going to miss him, but I still think they have enough offense that they'll do fine until he comes back," Gaston. "They will have to pitch, though. They certainly have the pitchers there that are capable of pitching well."

New York added CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett during the offseason to stabilize its starting rotation. The Yankees also hope catcher Jorge Posada, closer Mariano Rivera and left fielder Hideki Matsui respond from surgery and help the team get off to a fast start

Santana throws bullpen, slated to pitch Thursday

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP)—Johan Santana tested his left elbow in another bullpen session Monday and the New York Mets ace is scheduled to make his Grapefruit League debut Thursday night against Florida at Tradition Field.

The Mets got a pinch-hit grand

in the AL East.

"I feel like this team is going to win if we pitch well, whether Alex is here or not, to tell you the truth," left-hander Andy Pettitte said. "Everybody's lineup is so good. It's tough to pitch in this division. I think we're going to win because, hopefully, we outpitch the other people."

New York finished third last season, ending its streak of 13 consecutive postseason appearances.

"We were banged up last year at the beginning of the season. So we need to find a way to get it done," Pettitte said. "Hopefully, we can get everybody going as far as the rotation and we pitch well. We know Alex is going to drive in a lot of runs, but that production might not be there. We'll just have to pitch a

little bit better."

In other news, Rivera threw 30 pitches during his third bullpen session. Coming back from surgery on the AC joint in his right shoulder last Oct. 7, Rivera is scheduled to throw batting practice Wednesday and could make his spring training debut about March 17.

"I'm right on track," Rivera said. "Everything will depend on how the arm feels. So far it's been feeling good."

Rivera expects to be ready for opening day on April 6.

Matsui, who had left knee surgery last Sept. 22, reported no problems after playing consecutive games for the first time this year on Saturday and Sunday.

Freedom Air, Beach Boys in easy wins

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Freedom Air zoomed to its third straight win and fortified its playoff bid after pounding Public School System, 9-3, in the Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballpark.

Left fielder Joe Lizama led the win with impeccable offense, going 3-for-3 with four runs that included homers in his first two at bats.

Dennis Cruz and Dante Sablan singled in the first inning before Roy Celis flied out to left field. Lizama then hit a homerun that scored Cruz and Sablan.

Emery Fital gave PSS its first run in the bottom first then

Ton Aguon scored on a double by Cruz that made it 3-1 for Freedom Air.

Celis and Lizama increased the lead to 5-1 with their successive solo homeruns in the third and Freedom Air never looked back.

Celis went 3-for-4, had three runs, two RBIs, a homerun, and a double.

With the win, Freedom Air tied the Beach Boys at second place with similar 13-3 win-loss records.

PSS must win its last three assignments for a chance to make it to the playoff round with its 5-11 record.

Beach Boys 7, Law & Order 0

Beach Boys players didn't have to flex their muscles to score back-to-back wins via forfeit after Law and Order failed to show up with

enough players Monday.

It was the third forfeited game for Law and Order (3-11), which needs to win its last five games to enter the playoffs.

The Top 10 teams after the regular season will advance to the playoffs.

The regular season will end on March 27, barring any weather delay of the scheduled games.

DLNR 17, P&S 15

In the other game on Monday, Department of Lands and Natural Resources rallied back to score a 17-15 win over P&S.

DLNR is in 10th place with its 7-10 record but needs to win its two remaining games to assure itself of the playoffs.

P&S slipped to the 12th spot and needs to win at least three of its four remaining assignments to make the cut.

Islanders still reign in 'Gorilla Games'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Islanders foiled the Seven Kings bid to rule the "Gorilla Games" in the World Organized Rocball Community League Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Islanders notched a 93-71 juiced out win, to rule the "Gorilla Games" for the third straight time.

"Gorilla Games" kicked off first week of January with 2008-2009 Rocball league champion Ghasias Brothers eking out a 108-84 victory over first challenger Okies in double overtime.

But the Brothers lost their title defense bid to Evenflow, which posted a 109-101 overtime win.

Evenflow eventually bowed to the Islanders last month, 81-98.

The Islanders survived their first challenger, beating the Soul Rebels in straight sets, 100-65.

Last Saturday, a new team—Seven Kings—attempted to dethrone the Islanders and failed, as Freddie Pelisamen continued to work wonders for the latter.

Pelisamen was the game's heavy hitter, scoring 14 points on five kees, one ace, and one xunk.

The Islanders took the opening set by 12 points, 26-14, but had a tougher time in the second set before nailing a 27-21 victory.

In the third set, the Islanders won by double digits, again, 25-15, and completed a sweep with a close 25-21 triumph in the fourth set. Eighteen aces, 16 kees, seven xunks, one jam, and one goal

were scored in the game.

"Gorilla Games" will resume next Saturday and rocball creator James Feger is encouraging interesting teams to challenge the defending champion.

The winning team in the bi-weekly "Gorilla Games" takes a \$50 cash prize. The loser gets to rest for a month before returning to action.

For more information about "Gorilla Games," contact Jim Feger at 288-8722 or at 237-3532.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

earned 70 points after competing in the 400m and 200m individual medley races, 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly, 50m freestyle, and the 400m freestyle relay.

Wong defeated teammates Kai Staal (62 points) and Cooper Graf (49 points). Staal is eligible to compete in the 13-14 age group, but decided to join the open division.

Grace Kimball, who is only 13 years old, also participated in the female open division and won the event after gaining 70 points. She prevailed over Tsunami Saipan's Marystar Welch (60 points) and teammate Kean-na Villagomez (37 points).

In the boys' 8-and-under division, Tsunami Saipan's Hiroto Yanai gathered 64 points for a two-point win over teammate Ryosei Toda. SSC's Kento Akimuru placed third with 44 points.

Brooke Lamoureux of Guam

Typhoon triumphed in the girls' 8-and-under with her 72 points, beating SSC's Emma Martinsen (44) and Sarah Klassen (35).

Angel Tan, also of Tsunami Saipan, prevailed in the girls' 9-10 age group after collecting 70 points. She won over Danielle Atoigue (55) of Manukai and Tsunami Saipan teammate Angel De Jesus (53).

Kaito Yanai was the fourth Tsunami Saipan swimmer to rule his age group, collecting 66 points in the boys' 9-10. Kaito defeated last year's

champion Maxi Braig (64) and Tarakito's Justin Fell and Diego Shimizu, who tied for third with 44 points.

Kaisei Toda, also of Tsunami Saipan, earned 70 points to finish on top of the boys' 11-12 age group and downed SSC's Andrew Kimball (54) and Matthew Klassen (50).

In the girls' 11-12 age group, Tarakito's Pilar Shimizu scored 72 points to outclass Manukai's Taloani Atoigue (51) and SSC's Abigail Martinsen (46).

Emma Rione won the girls'

13-14 age group with her 72 points, while Tsunami Saipan's Thea Minor (56) and Alexis Babinec (35) finished second and third, respectively.

Tarakito's Benjie Schulte dominated the boys' 13-14 age group after tallying 72 points. SSC's Lester Lapuz placed second with his 60 points, while Manukai's Chirag Bhojwani was third with 44 points.

The Top 3 placers in each age group received plaques, while the Top 3 teams took home miniature trophies.

CNMI

From Page 28

tournament, having been the newest EAFF member and the least experienced one, but we will not be pushovers. These guys will go all out in every game," Imaya added.

The CNMI team is composed of Evan Hunsberger, Yoshi Gabaldon, David Duenas, Nick Swaim, Brad Ruszala, Steve McKagan, Ben Wood, Joe Miller, Gilmark Reusora, Jeffrey Cloud, Peter Houk, Dale Roberts, Jason Schroeder, Lucas Knecht, Bradley Brostrom, Dan-

iel Macario, Jose Duenas, Chris Nelson, and Norman Camacho. Also on the team is equipment manager John Ravell.

The CNMI strikers have been preparing for the preliminary competition for more than five months and over a month under Kambe, who arrived on Saipan early last month.

The CNMI Nationals have probably the oldest lineup (combined age) among the four teams, as most of their players are in the 30s.

The Commonwealth's first opponent, Macau, is mostly composed of players in their mid 20s.

Kin Seng Chan, the best attacker of Macau, is only 24 years old. At the East Asian Football Championship 2008 Preliminary Competition in Macau in June 2007, he scored against Korea and Chinese Taipei.

Another notable player on Macau's lineup is team captain Ka Koi Lam. He is a defensive leader and one of the players born in the 1970s, which is called the "Golden Age" in Macau. The 37-year-old player helps Macau as a coach on the pitch and has played for the national team for over 10 years.

Geofredo De Sousa Cheung is

also a marked man on Macau's roster. He is a winger who has good foot techniques. His main role as a set play taker is to create chances from the left side, but he sometimes deceives defenders, as he scores himself.

Masanaga Kageyama coaches Macau. He earned an AFC Professional Diploma Coach License in 2007 and from 2002 to 2005 served as coach of Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

Macau first played in the EAFF preliminary competition in 2003 and won against Mongolia and Guam to finish third among five teams.

The former Portuguese col-

ony also competed in the 2000 Asian Cup qualifier and gave FIFA World Cup finalist Japan a run for its money before bowing, 0-3.

The winner of the EAFF preliminary competition will advance to the semifinal round, which will be played in Tainan, Taiwan in August this year. Japan will host the East Asian Football Championship next year.

This week's tournament will be a round robin with the team to earn the most points after three games winning the preliminary competition. A victory is equivalent to three points, one for a draw, and none for a loss.

QUICHOCHO

From Page 28

ket, and drew a foul from Keoni Chariton. The Quichocho point guard nailed the bonus shot, giving Quichocho a 98-96 lead, with 1:05 left on the clock.

The Nationals had plenty of time left on the 24-second shotclock in the ensuing play, but Quincy Johnson opted for a quick baseline jumper and missed.

After his 3-point play, Cada-

gat teamed up with Larry Pale-ro in a pick and roll play with the latter converting a jumper near the 15-foot line and increasing Quichocho's lead to four, 100-98, with 36.1 seconds left in the game.

Coach Rufino Aguon sued for time to stop the bleeding for the Nationals, but his wards failed to score when Tumaquip drove to the middle, bumped Palero, and lost possession of the ball.

Palero picked up the loose ball and Quichocho wisely hung

on to the ball until Marvin Rauliman was forced to give up a foul on Barbo.

Barbo secured the come-from-behind win with his pair of free throws.

Quichocho improved to a 4-7 record, but remained in sixth place in the team standings. The Nationals are still on top with an 8-2 slate.

In the first game, Diamond Auto Care capitalized on a depleted IT&E crew to cruise to a 106-89 win.

IT&E played with only five

players and was down to four in the last seven minutes of the fourth quarter, as Sonny Ranola had to leave for work. Other IT&E players were on Tinian for the competition hosted by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

First Game

Diamond 106 – Peredo 21, Brostrom 18, Capalad 14, Esdrelon 12, Muleta 8, Camacho 7, Joyner 7, Fernandez 6, Gamboa 4, Guiab 4.

IT&E 89 – Ranola 32, De

Dios 23, Olivos 13, Montano 8, Mercurio 6.

Scoring by quarters: 21-all, 50-40, 77-67, 106-89.

Second Game

Quichocho Law Office 102 – Barbo 26, Cadagat 21, Capalad 14, Demapan 9, Pantaleon 8, Palero 7, Lerio 6, Tagle 4.

CNMI Nationals 96 – Rauliman 21, Iguel 20, Tumaquip 16, Johnson 13, Moses 10, White 7, Chariton 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-31, 51-55, 75-73, 102-96.

D'9ERS

From Page 28

the bases in the D'9ers win.

Mel Sakisat pitched for the first time for the D'9ers and struck out nine batters and allowed 14 hits, nine runs, and

three walks.

After that eight-run burst in the first inning, the D'9ers stretched their lead to 12-3 after five full innings.

Dennis Cruz, Nick Guerrero, and Mabel Ngingemelas scored the first three runs for the Masters.

In the top of the sixth, Jason Hayes had one run for the Masters. The team then rallied by blasting five runs in the seventh with Cruz, Ngingemelas, Bill Aguon, and Hayes crossing home plate to chop the lead to 9-12.

But D'9ers managed three more runs from Lizama, Ban-

sil, and Mesa that quickly snapped the Masters rally.

Hayes grounded out in the top of the ninth, but Guerrero reached first on a fielding error. Sakisat, however, struck out Ngingemelas and Mesa flied out to center to end the game.

With the win the D'9ers tied

defending champion Rock Steady at 2-0. They won their first game against the Tanapag Falcons, 13-3, last Feb. 23.

On the other hand, the Masters failed to duplicate their victory over Korean Phoenix, 21-1, in their first game last Feb. 25.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	49	15	.766	—
Philadelphia	30	31	.492	17 1/2
New Jersey	28	35	.444	20 1/2
New York	25	37	.403	23
Toronto	23	41	.359	26
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	49	13	.790	—
Detroit	32	30	.516	17
Milwaukee	30	36	.455	21
Chicago	29	35	.453	21
Indiana	28	37	.431	22 1/2
Southeast Division				
Orlando	46	17	.730	—
Atlanta	36	28	.562	10 1/2
Miami	34	29	.540	12
Charlotte	28	35	.444	18
Washington	15	49	.234	31 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	42	20	.677	—
Houston	42	23	.646	1 1/2
New Orleans	39	23	.629	3
Dallas	38	25	.603	4 1/2
Memphis	16	46	.258	26
Northwest Division				
Utah	40	23	.635	—
Portland	40	23	.635	—
Denver	40	25	.615	1
Minnesota	18	45	.286	22
Oklahoma City	17	46	.270	23
Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	50	13	.794	—
Phoenix	34	29	.540	16
Golden State	21	42	.333	29
LA Clippers	15	48	.238	35
Sacramento	14	49	.222	36
Yesterday's Games				
Atlanta 89, New Orleans 79				
Detroit 98, Orlando 94				
Miami 130, Chicago 127				
Washington 110, Minnesota 99				
Houston 97, Denver 95				
Portland 111, LA Lakers 94				
By The Associated Press				
LOCAL SCORES				
BUDWEISER CAGING STANDINGS				
CNMI Nationals	8	2		
IT & E	7	4		
OfAces	6	3		
Diamond Auto Fixers	4	5		
Docomo	4	6		
Quichocho Law Office	4	7		
Runnin' Rebels	2	8		
BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS				
Men				
DCCA	17	0		
Freedom Air	13	3		
Beach Boys	13	3		
Docomo	13	4		
Joeten Motor Jets	12	4		
No Zone	11	5		
CPA	10	4		
Legislature	10	7		
POI	8	7		
DLNR	7	10		
CRM/DEQ	6	8		
P&S	6	9		
PSS	5	11		
CUC	4	9		
CHC	4	10		
PIC	4	10		
Customs	4	12		
Mayors	4	12		
Law & Order	3	11		
Hopwood	0	15		
Women				
NMC	9	2		
CUC	6	4		
Finance	6	4		
DCCA	5	7		
CHC	1	9		

2009 COPSSA Championship

PHOTOS By
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



The MVP for each school in the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association junior varsity receive their medals. From left are Jin Hon (Calvary Christian Academy), Ken Orejala (Grace Christian Academy), Christopher Camacho (Saipan International School, overall MVP) Christian Mizer (Mt. Carmel School), Bo Barry (SIS), and Justin Poon (SCS). Not in photo is Tyler Palacios of SDA.



In photo are the school MVPs Chezka De Luna of GCA, Kaylani Lebria of MCS (overall MVP), and Erin Mendiola of SDA. Victoria Reyes of SCS is not in photo.



Knights center Christian Mizer loses the ball against three Geckos—Alex Chung, Rafael Jones, and Christopher Camacho.



The SIS Geckos raise the trophy as they celebrate their first ever crown in the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association junior varsity basketball on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Overall MVP Chris Camacho at the free throw line during the championship game between the Geckos and the Knights.



Head coach John Manglona and the Lady Eagles with some of their supporters shortly after regaining the crown.



Proud parents of four outstanding MCS players, Kaylani Lebria, Christian Mizer, Shaniah Alvarez, and Amy Taylor, join the celebration.



Chezka De Luna is bothered by the tight guarding of Kaylani Lebria



SCS key player Victoria Reyes dribbles the ball in their semifinal game against SDA on March 5.



The Lady Eagles celebrate seconds after snatching the crown from the Lady Knights.



What a Wade! 3-pointer at end lifts Heat

Miami's MVP candidate stole the ball from John Salmons with 4 seconds left, then made a running 3-pointer as time expired to lift the Heat to a wild 130-127 double-overtime win over the Chicago Bulls on Monday night. **24**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Freedom Air, Beach Boys in easy wins

Freedom Air zoomed to its third straight win and further fortified its playoff bid after pounding Public School System, 9-3, in the Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballpark. **26**



28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tsunami Saipan rules SSC Invitational

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan topped the 2009 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet held over the weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Tsunami Saipan collected 962 points from 150 events calendared in the two-day meet. Points were awarded based on how swimmers finished in their respective events.

Coming in at second place was host and last year's overall champion SSC, which earned 747 points. Tarakito Swim Club of Guam placed third with 293 points, followed by Manukai Swim Club of Guam (225), Guam Typhoon (154), and the SSC Masters (45).

Tsunami Saipan claimed this year's championship, as five of its swimmers won individual high point awards.

In the male open division, Rezne Wong led Tsunami Saipan's Top 3 finish, as the 18-year-old swimmer

See **TSUNAMI** on Page 26



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kai Staal, above, and Rezne Wong race in the 200m freestyle event in the 2009 SSC International Invitational Swim Meet Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI strikers play Macau today



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and officials of the CNMI National Football Team pose for a group photo before their training session Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI National Football Team will kick off the hostilities in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition, as it squares off with Macau at the Leo Palace Resort in Guam.

Game time is at 1:30pm after the traditional opening ceremonies, which will have host Guam and Mongolia joining the CNMI and Macau in the parade of teams. Guam will play in the second game at 4pm against Mongolia.

The CNMI strikers left Saipan for

CNMI Schedule

March 11	CNMI vs Macau	1:30pm
March 13	CNMI vs Guam	4pm
March 15	CNMI vs Mongolia	1:30pm
March 14	CNMI vs Guam	4pm
(Marianas Football Cup-Women's)		

Guam Monday morning and started practicing at Leo Palace yesterday afternoon.

"They love the field and they are in high spirits. Coach Sugao Kambe talked to them early this morning (Tuesday) and told them to enjoy the game, play fair, and do their best," said team manager Kentaro Imaya.

"We may be the underdogs in this

See **CNMI** on Page 26

Quichocho Law Office stuns Nationals, again

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Quichocho Law Office continued its domination of league-leading CNMI Nationals after pulling off a 102-96 victory in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Quichocho dropped an 8-0 bomb in the last one minute and 55 seconds of the fourth quarter to again beat the Nationals after prevailing in their first round meeting, 87-80.

The Nationals held the lead for

the last time at 96-94, after Joemary Tumaquip's triple, going into the last 1:55 of the game.

A Darwin Barbo split moved Quichocho within one, 95-96, and after Allen Moses Jr. missed on a drive, Barbo collared the rebound and threw a baseball pass to a streaking Bonbon Cadagat. Cadagat went for a fastbreak layup, made the bas-

See **QUICHOCHO** on Page 26

Quichocho Law Office's Bonbon Cadagat, left, goes up for a reverse layup against the Nationals' Joseph White during their game in the Budweiser caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



D'9ers trip Masters for share of lead



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Mel Sakisat went 0-for-5 at bat in his first game with the D'9ers but he pitched eight and a half innings and allowed 14 hits, nine runs, and four walks in their 14-9 win over the Masters on Friday night in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



The D'9ers first eight batters scored in the first inning and it was just the cushion the team needed to beat the Masters, 14-9, in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League on Friday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

Shortstop Rob Bansil and second baseman Ben Mesa scored three runs each, while third baseman Rob Lizama and right fielder Jeff Tenorio reached home plate twice to lead D'9ers to its second straight win.

John Acosta, Ray Camacho, Aldred Atalig, and Eno Tenorio also rounded

See **D'9ERS** on Page 26